

**FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION**  
**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION/PRIVACY ACTS SECTION**

**SUBJECT: MEYER LANSKY**

**FILE NUMBER: 92-2831 SUB A**

Lansky Held as Vagrant,  
Questioned on Anastasia



*4 file  
087  
Meyer Lansky*

CLIPPING FROM THE  
N.Y. WORLD TELEGRAM & SUN  
N.Y.  
EDITION NIGHT  
DATED FEB 12 1958  
PAGE 1  
FORWARDED BY NY DIVISION  
RE: HOODLUM PROGRAM  
ANTI-RACKETEERING  
BUFILE 92-

*92-2831-A*  
NOT RECORDED  
191 FEB 24 1958

65 FEB 24 1958 97

## Havana Gambler Seized After Idlewild Landing

Racketeer Meyer Lansky, top man of the lush Havana gambling syndicate, was booked here today as a vagrant. He was taken in last night for questioning about the fatal shooting of his old Murder, Inc., chum, Albert Anastasia.

Anastasia was blasted out of a Park Sheraton barber chair last Oct. 25 reputedly because he had defied an edict against muscling in on Lansky's rich Cuban pickings.

The Havana big shot was grabbed as he stepped from a cab at Broadway and 53rd St. He was booked for vagrancy even though he carried a \$108 roll and protested that he owns a home at 3800 South Ocean Dr., Hollywood, Fla.

### Says He's Gambler.

Lansky listed himself as a gambler. That isn't recognized as a worthwhile trade in this state.

After a three-hour session at the W. 54th St. station, headquarters for the Anastasia investigation, Inspector Frederick Lussen and Deputy Inspector John Green said Lansky was no help at all.

Lansky, who was trailed from Idlewild Airport after he flew in from Havana, was to be arraigned in Weekend Court because of the holiday.

The gambling bigwig and ex-director of Murder, Inc., readily admitted he had been engaged in Cuban gambling for two years, but would not discuss any of his reported connections with Havana hotels and their casinos.

### Was in New York.

He also admitted, police said, that he was in New York a few days before Anastasia was shot by two thugs, but said he

was in either Florida or Cuba at the time of the slaying.

In the murder investigation, District Attorney Frank S. Hogan has circulated 48-state alarms for Lansky's two aids, Louis Santos, alias Santo Trafficante, 42, of Tampa, Fla., and Havana, and Joseph (Joe Rivers) Silesi, 60, of 265 Lafayette St.

The two can be seen every night at the palatial Sans Souci, which Santos operates in Havana, as well as at other Cuban casinos.

### Medical Treatment.

Lansky, who made no effort to dodge photographers during his booking, said he was in New York for medical treatment. But he couldn't seem to remember what had made him ill—unless it was the fact that Mr. Hogan has considered him a prime suspect in the Anastasia killing. Lansky has been quoted before as saying this DA interest "pained" him.

During the booking, the 5 foot 6 inch, dark-haired gambler stood before the lieutenant's desk in the station house and looked anything but an underworld lord.

He wore a too-tight, gray, double-breasted suit and a blue figured tie. He said he was born July 4, 1902, that he was once a machinist but now "a businessman," and that he was married and the father of three.

State police had their hands on Santos last fall, but let him go after taking his name and address after the raid on the gangland convention at Apalachin.

Continued on Page Two.

# **Lansky Seized, Admits**

## **He Was Here**

## **Just Before**

## **Anastasia**

## **Was Slain**

CLIPPING FROM THE

N.Y. POST

EDITION NIGHT EXTRA

DATED FEB 12 1958

PAGE 3

FORWARDED BY NY DIVISION

RE: HOODLUM PROGRAM  
ANTI-RACKETEERING

BUFILE 92-

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By IRVING LIEBERMAN and STAN OPOTOWSKY

Bigshot gambler Meyer Lansky admits that he was in New York at the time a gangland council allegedly ordered the execution of Albert Anastasia, police said today.

But beyond that Lansky will say nothing.

So after more than three hours of questioning, Lansky was booked as a vagrant—early today—even though he had \$1,085 stuffed in his pocket at the time.

Police believe that Anastasia was murdered because he was attempting to muscle in on the flourishing Havana casinos. Lansky is the kingpin of the Cuban gambling industry, reportedly by appointment by dictator Fulgencio Batista.

The police believe that Anastasia's murder was ordered and planned in a W. 49th St. hotel just a few days before the ex-Murder, Inc., star was gunned to death in the Park Sheraton's barber shop, Oct. 25.

Lansky admitted being in town at the time of the meeting, but denied that he attended it. He admitted being in the U. S. the day Anastasia was killed.

#### Waiting for Lansky

Lansky flew into New York last night on a mysterious visit, and the cops were waiting. They had been tipped off that he was flying here from Miami, and so detectives were ready at Idlewild Airport and also at hotels Lansky frequents.

The airport detectives spotted him immediately. They gave him a little rope. Instead of picking him up right away, they trailed him for three hours.

Finally they picked him up at Broadway and 53d St. at 10:30 p.m. and took him to the W. 54th St. station, headquarters for the investigation of Anastasia's murder.

#### Questioned 3 Hours

The high police brass was called in, and Inspector Frederick Lusson directed the questioning for three hours. It was not very fruitful. At the end, Lusson told reporters:

"He gave us no information. He doesn't even give an occupation. He says that he is a former machinist, but that dates back to his childhood days. He does admit to being a gambler. That is not a legal occupation in this state, so he is being booked for vagrancy.

"In relation to the Anastasia shooting, he did say that he was in the country, in Florida, the day Anastasia was killed—and that he was in New York City a few days prior to the killing."

It was that "few days prior to the killing" that interested the police; those were the days when Anastasia was doomed. But Lan-



Post Photo by Pomerantz  
Meyer Lansky (1) walks with detective at W. 54th St. precinct.

sky would not expand on the subject.

Police were amazed that Lansky would dare come to New York in view of the investigations of the Anastasia killings.

Continued on Page 38

Lansky appeared to be wearing what he would consider a disguise when he was picked up last night. There was one of the flashy jewelry and elegantly tailored togs normally sported by the hoods.

Instead, he wore a cheap-looking grey suit, a battered hat and a plain white shirt. He was cheerful about the inconvenience, and seemed even amused at photographers' flashbulbs popped as he was booked at 1:55 a.m.

He kept a cigaret riveted to his lips and his hands plunged into his pockets. He talked in a low, calm voice. When the desk lieutenant droned out, "Occupation?" Lansky was ready with a drone of his own:

"Business."

#### Reported Batista's Boy

Lansky gives every indication of being a varietable czar of Cuban gambling operations. The Havana story is that he was picked by Batista to run the casinos, and that Batista and Lansky are partners in the operation.

Lansky quietly glides through the gambling room of the recently opened Hotel Riviera each night, and even received a nationwide TV plug when Steve Allen originated his NBC show from the hotel last month.

Lansky's brother is strategically placed as pit boss in the casino of the rival Hotel Nacional de Cuba.

Havana gambling, new and enticing, is considered the hottest property of the underworld right now. It is just one hour from Miami (planes every hour) and just seven hours from New York.

Anastasia wanted to cut himself into this lush field, police think, and ignored warnings that he was moving out of his assigned territory. District Attorney Hagan has sought to question gamblers Santo Trafficante and Joseph Silesi, both members of the Lansky organization in Cuba, but they will have no part of it.

and the Appalachian gang convention.

Lansky said he was here for "medical treatment," but refused to reveal the ailment.

One high police official told The Post today that only "very urgent" business could have lured Lansky to New York, per-  
sonal life.

This authoritative police official said that Las Vegas gambling interests have been demanding a cut of the Havana take. Nevada's take has been hit by a recession, and The Mob blames this partially on the fact that its Eastern trade now passes up Las Vegas for Havana.

#### Once Costello Partner

Lansky, once a partner of Frank Costello in Las Vegas and New Orleans operations, probably came to confer with his old boss, the police official said.

Lansky has been in the hood hierarchy for decades. He was described by former Mayor William O'Dwyer as one of the six members of the Murder, Inc., board of directors, serving with such illustrious compatriots as Bugsey Siegel, Jacob Shapiro, Louis Lepke, Lucky Luciano, and Joe Adonis.

Lansky is the only survivor. The others are either dead or deported.

Yet despite this long history in crime's higher circles, Lansky has served only one jail term—a three-month stretch in Saratoga County Jail in 1953 for gambling operations at Saratoga Springs. He spent his cell time reading the Bible and a dictionary.

#### 10 Other Arrests

He has 10 other arrests, one for homicide, but none ever stuck.

# Watchdogs Call Lansky For Quiz on Apalachin Gambler Faces Trial as a Vagrant, Denies Anastasia Slaying Role

By Don Hogan

Meyer Lansky, identified by the cognoscenti as a racketeer of international importance and by his cohorts as "Meyer the Bug," was charged yesterday with vagrancy a few hours after he arrived in New York, allegedly to see his doctor about ulcers. A few more hours later he received a summons to appear before the Joint Legislative Watchdog Committee investigating the November gangland meeting at Apalachin, N. Y.

Lansky was picked up shortly after midnight by detectives who trailed him from Idlewild Airport, where he had arrived from Havana, to Broadway. First he was relieved of his checkbook, \$1,085 in cash, and his luggage and then was left waiting for three hours in the W. 56th St. station. Then he was questioned for three more hours concerning the slaying of Albert Anastasia.

## Bodyguard Held

Anastasia, a former executive with Murder, Inc., was shot to death in a barber's chair Oct. 25 at the Hotel Park Sheraton. So far the only arrest in the case has been that of Anthony Cupola, the slain man's bodyguard, as a material witness. Cupola, presently in the Bellevue Hospital prison ward with a heart ailment, has maintained he was drinking coffee across the street when his employer was shot.

One police theory is that Anastasia was killed because he wanted a piece of the gambling profits taken from American tourists in Havana. Lansky, who, as an ally of Frank Costello and Frank Erickson, has in the past been proven owner of gambling operations in Las Vegas, Nev.; Saratoga Springs, N. Y., and Miami, Fla., presently is considered the prime gambling concessionaire in Cuba.

Lansky's trial on the vagrancy charge was set for Feb. 21 and he was released on a \$1,000 bond supplied by a professional bondsman.

Although not present at the Apalachin meeting, Lansky is believed to have known just about every one there. One of the minor racketeers present is believed to have been his personal representative.

## Visited Luciano

Lansky spent his younger rackets day as a member of "The Big Six," a gang which decided upon the elimination of Dutch Schultz from the underworld scene. Later Lansky was graduated to a position equal with Costello and Erickson in the ownership of various highly lucrative gambling houses. Still later he was found to be a close associate of Charles "Lucky" Luciano the vice lord, whom he visited in Sing Sing Prison. Shortly after Luciano's pardon and deportation to Italy, Lansky sailed in the royal suite of a ship to visit him there.

Although associated with the leaders of syndicated crime (unlike the others who are mostly Sicilians, he was born in Russia) Lansky has only a \$2 arrest record. He was fined that sum twice for disorderly conduct and although arrested for homicide and felonious assault was never convicted of anything more serious than gambling or violating the Volstead Act.

The summons before the Watchdog committee is for 10 a. m. Feb. 20.

Tolson ☒  
Boardman ☒  
Belmont ☒  
Mohr ☒  
Nease ☒  
Parsons ☒  
Rosen ☒  
Tamm ☒  
Trotter ☒  
Clayton ☒  
Tele. Room ☒  
Holloman ☒  
Gandy ☒

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Wash. Post and Times Herald \_\_\_\_\_  
Wash. News \_\_\_\_\_  
Wash. Star \_\_\_\_\_  
N. Y. Herald Tribune ☒  
N. Y. Journal-American \_\_\_\_\_  
N. Y. Mirror \_\_\_\_\_  
N. Y. Daily News \_\_\_\_\_  
N. Y. Times \_\_\_\_\_  
Daily Worker \_\_\_\_\_  
The Worker \_\_\_\_\_  
New Leader \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

FEB 13 1958

65 FEB 24 1958

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191 FEB 24 1958



Herald Tribune photo by Joe Engels

**QUIZZED IN ANASTASIA SLAYING—**~~Meyer~~ **Lansky**  
leaving court yesterday after he was released in \$1,000  
bond on a charge of vagrancy.

# Elusive Is the Word for Lansky

## He's Well Protected During His Visit Here

By Don Hogan

Herald Tribune Special

Meyer Lansky, one of the untouchables of the underworld, retained his privileged rank on a recent visit to New York. The police laid a tentative hand on his sleeve when he first arrived in town, then could only stand back and watch—something they did, apparently, twenty-four hours a day.

He held still for a few minutes' press conference but became unavailable after his lawyer called newsmen a "miserable bunch of rats" for suggesting his client did not move in the highest social circles.

The Herald Tribune's efforts to see him after that failed completely, and presumably he is now back in Hollywood, Fla., where he has a house on the ocean, or perhaps, despite the Cuban government's announcement that he was unwanted on their island, has returned to his gambling interests there.

### Picked Up on Arrival

He arrived in New York at Idlewild Airport the night of Feb. 11 and was picked up by the police as soon as he arrived in the downtown area. He was questioned for several hours about the murder Oct. 25 of Albert Anastasia (who, it is believed, was trying to muscle-in on Cuban gambling) but told police he knew nothing more about the killing "than an Eskimo in Alaska."

When they were finished talking to him, police booked him for vagrancy despite the fact he had \$1,061 in cash and a checkbook in his pockets. He was held in the W. 54th St. precinct overnight.

A few days later Lansky's lawyer, Moses Polakoff, of 475 Fifth Ave., was asked by the Herald Tribune if he could arrange for an interview with Lansky. The lawyer said "No."

Several days were devoted by the Herald Tribune reporter to finding out where Lansky was staying. In the meantime his vagrancy case came up in court. The judge replied that as un-

fortunate as it might be in this case "social undesirability is not the equivalent of lawlessness" and ordered him discharged.

### Hotel Room Shielded

Shortly after that it was learned he was staying in an eighteenth floor suite at the Hotel Navarro, 112 Central Park South. A reporter went directly to the room without stopping at the desk. The reporter rang the bell. No one answered.

The reporter waited several hours but Lansky did not return to the hotel. The next day the reporter telephoned first from outside the hotel to see if he was in and could talk to him. From 8 a. m. to shortly after noon he was told by the operator, "Mr. Lansky is in the bathtub, please call back later."

On the sidewalk to the west of the door was a street photographer taking pictures of people as they walked by. After watching him for awhile it became clear he had no film in his camera. Then once, when he turned around swiftly, his windbreaker jacket flew open to reveal a movie camera slung under his arm. He propped open the jacket and pressed his arm to his side every time anyone went in or out of the hotel.

A little farther up the street was a debonair gentleman wearing a pencil-thin mustache, salt and pepper overcoat and grey homburg. He was leaning on the door of a Buick talking to a platinum blonde in a mink stole who was sitting in the car. From time to time she would pick up something in her hand, hold it in front of her face and with her other hand trace new lipstick on her mouth. Only it

wasn't a mirror in her off-side hand—it was a microphone.

In another automobile on the other side of the street and headed in the opposite direction was a uniformed chauffeur. In the course of two days the reporter watched the hotel while Lansky was in his room the car never moved and there were three different chauffeurs behind the wheel.

### Mysterious Truck

Another time a news delivery truck was parked for hours across the street, directly in front of the hotel. Once the tarpaulin, which was rolled down in the back, was opened to let someone climb in. The interior looked like a radio repair shop.

On Saturday, March 1, Lansky left the hotel shortly after 1 p. m. He jumped into a cab before the reporter could catch him. The reporter climbed into another cab to follow. The gentleman in the salt and pepper overcoat got behind the wheel next to the platinum blonde. Driving up the East Side other cars cut in and out behind Lansky's cab. Finally, near what was later described as Lansky's doctor's office, a car the reporter had not seen before waved his taxi over to the side.

A man approached the cab window and flashed a badge. "Who are you?" he asked. The reporter showed his press card. "Listen, Mac," the officer said, "it looks like a funeral procession with so many cars going around. We're trying to do a job. Why don't you go home?"

The reporter went back to his office. Later in the day he learned that after the visit to his doctor Lansky went to Idlewild, where he boarded a plane for Florida. The reporter checked to see why Lansky had been allowed to leave town without appearing before the legislative "watchdog" committee which is investigating the gangster meeting in Apalachin, N. Y. A spokesman for the committee said, "We're not ready for him yet. We're still investigating him to see who he is."

676

Tolson	✓
Boardman	✓
Belmont	✓
Mohr	✓
Nease	✓
Parsons	✓
Rosen	✓
Tamm	✓
Trotter	✓
Clayton	✓
Tele. Room	✓
Holloman	✓
Gandy	✓



Herald Tribune—Engel  
Meyer Lansky

Wash. Post and Times Herald \_\_\_\_\_  
Wash. News \_\_\_\_\_  
Wash. Star \_\_\_\_\_  
N. Y. Herald Tribune 5 \_\_\_\_\_  
N. Y. Journal-American \_\_\_\_\_  
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N. Y. Daily News \_\_\_\_\_  
N. Y. Times \_\_\_\_\_  
Daily Worker \_\_\_\_\_  
The Worker \_\_\_\_\_  
New Leader \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

MAR 11 1958

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76 MAR 17 1958

# Meyer Lansky Back in Cuba Despite Ban

Special to the New York Post

Havana, June 23.—Meyer Lansky, kingpin U. S. gambler banned from Cuba four months ago, has quietly returned to this country.

He has been seen at local casinos, of which he controls at least two.

Lansky helped set up the gambling room in the Hotel Nacional



MEYER LANSKY

in 1956. Later he was instrumental in the building of the Hotel Riviera, in which he has an interest.

In February, Lansky flew to the U. S. for medical treatment. In New York he was arrested on a vagrancy charge.

Spokesmen for the Cuban government then announced that Lansky, as an undesirable alien, would not be permitted to return to Cuba. (His brother Jake and Sam Tucker of Las Vegas' Desert Inn have remained in charge at the Nacional's casino).

Lansky's return coincided with plans of several U. S. gamblers to abandon Cuba as a result of a Nevada ruling against anyone holding interests in the state as well as Cuba.

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DATED 23 JUN 1958

PAGE 33

FORWARDED BY NY DIVISION

RE: MEYER LANSKY  
HOODLUM PROGRAM  
ANTI-RACKETEERING

BUFILE 92-

1-92-2231 A  
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170 JUN 20 1958

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served Subpena on Alleged Juke Box Activities

# U. S. Gambling Czar in Cuba Called by Senate Probers

By JACK STEELE Scripps-Howard Staff Writer

Meyer Lansky, kingpin of Cuban gambling under the Batista regime, will be called as a witness by the Senate Rackets Investigating Committee within two weeks.

Mr. Lansky, for many years a key figure in the U. S. gambling fraternity, returned to this country yesterday after the new Cuban government of Fidel Castro clamped at least a temporary lid on gambling.

He arrived by air in Miami carrying only a cloth hand bag and was quickly cleared by immigration service officials, who said they had no reason to hold Mr. Lansky since he is a naturalized citizen and faces no Federal charges. He is the first big shot gambler to return to America since the revolution.

## SEE DOCTOR

Mr. Lansky told reporters he was going to his home in nearby Hollywood, Fla., "to see a doctor."

But Robert Kennedy, chief counsel of the McClellan Committee, revealed today that Mr. Lansky already has been summoned to testify on his role in the U. S. juke box industry when the group resumes its hearings in a few days.

He said Mr. Lansky had been served a subpoena during a visit to New York last spring and had agreed then to return and testify when summoned.

Mr. Kennedy declined to discuss Mr. Lansky's alleged activities in the juke-box business in this country while he has been living in Cuba as the gambling "czar" for deposed dictator Fulgencio Batista.

## ASSOCIATIONS

Mr. Lansky has for many years reputedly been associated with such underworld characters as Frank Costello, Joe Adonis, Charles (Lucky) Luciano and Bugsy Siegel.

At the Kefauver crime committee hearings he was once described as a director of Murder, Inc., the famed Brooklyn crime syndicate, and a top man in a \$26 million-a-year gambling-house operation.

In 1953 he was sentenced to three months in prison and fined \$2500 after pleading guilty to running wide-open gambling at the Arrowhead Inn in Saratoga, N. Y.



MEYER LANSKY

But the Justice Department failed in an attempt to denaturalize the Russian-born Lansky on grounds that he concealed his career in crime when he became a citizen in 1928.

## ATTEMPT FAILS

Last February, during a visit to New York, Mr. Lansky was picked up by police and questioned about the murder of Albert Anastasia. But a charge of vagrancy against him was dismissed.

A New York state legislative committee also sought in vain to question him about the gangland convention at Apalachin, N. Y.

## Job Problem

NEW YORK, Jan. 8 (UPI) —The revolutionary suspension of gambling in Cuba posed both an employment and a residence problem today for some of the United States' busiest expatriate racketeers.

Meyer Lansky, who helped departed President Fulgencio Batista organize Havana's plush industry, arrived in Florida last night "to see a doctor." He expressed some hope the new government would reopen the casinos at least for tourist gambling.

Some of his fellow gaming house operators were less eager to come to this country. New York police say they'd be interested in talking to almost any Cuban gambler in the interest of solving the Albert Anastasia murder mystery.

Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
Clayton \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

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Wash. Post and Times Herald \_\_\_\_\_  
Wash. News *7* \_\_\_\_\_  
Wash. Star \_\_\_\_\_  
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N. Y. Times \_\_\_\_\_  
Daily Worker \_\_\_\_\_  
The Worker \_\_\_\_\_  
New Leader \_\_\_\_\_  
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Date *1/11/59*

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JAN 12 1959

Served Subpena on Alleged Juke Box Activities 7

# U. S. Gambling Czar in Cuba Called by Senate Probers

By JACK STEELE Scripps-Howard Staff Writer

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
 Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
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 W.C. Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
 Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
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Wash. Post and Times Herald \_\_\_\_\_  
 Wash. News \_\_\_\_\_  
 Wash. Star \_\_\_\_\_  
 N. Y. Herald Tribune \_\_\_\_\_  
 N. Y. Journal-American \_\_\_\_\_  
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 N. Y. Daily News \_\_\_\_\_  
 N. Y. Times \_\_\_\_\_  
 Daily Worker \_\_\_\_\_  
 The Worker \_\_\_\_\_  
 New Leader \_\_\_\_\_

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117 JAN 14 1959

Date

60 JAN 15 1959

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
 Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
 DeLoach ☒ \_\_\_\_\_  
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 W.C. Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
 Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
 Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

## Report Lansky Has Vanished

HOLLYWOOD, Fla., Feb. 17 (AP).—The U. S. Senate rackets committee learned yesterday that Meyer Lansky, wanted for questioning in the juke box industry probe, had checked out of a private hospital and left no forwarding address.

Lansky, New York and Florida gambling figure, walked out of Hollywood Hospital Saturday, Robert Kennedy, committee attorney, was told. Lansky reportedly was being treated for a heart condition.

Lansky is under supoenā to present himself "forthwith" in Washington to testify in the juke box investigation. Only last Friday the committee sent a U. S. Public Health Service physician to Hollywood Hospital to examine Lansky.

The Washington Post and \_\_\_\_\_  
 Times Herald \_\_\_\_\_  
 The Washington Daily News \_\_\_\_\_  
 The Evening Star \_\_\_\_\_  
 New York Herald Tribune \_\_\_\_\_  
 New York Journal-American 6 \_\_\_\_\_  
 New York Mirror \_\_\_\_\_  
 New York Daily News \_\_\_\_\_  
 New York Post \_\_\_\_\_  
 The New York Times \_\_\_\_\_  
 The Worker \_\_\_\_\_  
 The New Leader \_\_\_\_\_  
 The Wall Street Journal \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date FEB 17 \_\_\_\_\_

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117 FEB 25 1959

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FEB 20 1959

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# Lansky Rules Crime Cartel From Florida

No history of the nation's organized crime would be complete without an account of the role attributed to Meyer Lansky, a South Florida resident for many years. Specialist Hank Messick, an expert student of syndicate operations, examines Lansky's activities in several articles for Herald readers, starting today.

By **HANK MESSICK**  
Herald Special Writer

The boss of the Eastern Syndicate and probably the biggest man in organized crime today lives at 612 Hibiscus Drive, Hallandale. His real name is Maier Suchowljansky, but it is under the name Meyer Lansky he won his wealth.

Lansky's wealth is reliably estimated at \$300 million — most of it stashed out of the country. The total grows steadily as underworld couriers bring the take from casinos in Las Vegas and the Bahamas to where Lansky

makes his headquarters in the Singapore Hotel on Collins Ave. Additional revenue comes from scores of investments, most of them in the names of nominees made by Lansky over the years.

Yet, despite his fantastic wealth, Lansky's home in the Golden Isles subdivision off Hallandale Beach Road is modest, in the \$25,000 class. The Lansky's drive rented Chevrolets.

As one observer put it, is Meyer Lansky.

Over the decades since Lansky first became known as go-boss, with Benjamin (Bugsy) Siegel, of the Bugs and Meyer Mob, he learned the value of moderation, of restraint. Lansky's power

grew along with his wealth. His associates were not as fortunate.

★ ★ ★  
**ARNOLD** (The Brain) Rothstein, perhaps the real organizer of syndicate crime,

died early, in 1928, of gunshot wounds. Dutch Schultz was gunned down in 1935. Louis (Lepke) Buchalter, boss of Murder, Inc., was electrocuted at Sing Sing in 1944.

Charles (Lucky) Luciano was deported in 1946, and died in Rome. Siegel was murdered in 1947. Also deported was Joe (Doto) Adonis, in 1956. Owney (the Killer) Madden went into exile of another sort. The syndicate sent him to Hot Springs, Ark., where for 30 years he ruled a miniature gambling empire until his

death (of old age) earlier this year.

Abner (Longie) Zwillman, the so-called "Al Capone of New Jersey," allegedly killed himself in 1959. And Frank Costello, who became too famous, was stripped of his authority and arrested recently in New York on vagrancy charges.

Lansky has survived.

The art of survival in a hostile world was one Lansky's ancestors learned when six centuries ago the Black Death swept eastward over

Europe killing millions and causing a wholesale migration of those blamed for the plague.

★ ★ ★  
**THE** forefathers of Maier Suchowljansky — as did the ancestors of such men as Samuel Tucker of the Cleveland Syndicate — fled from Russia to Poland and were welcomed there by Casimir the Great.

The Suchowljansky family came to New York in 1911. The boy who was to become known as Meyer Lansky was nine years old. With him

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ties as one observer put it, is Meyer Lansky.

came a brother, Jake, who has served Meyer well as an assistant over the years.

When the Prohibition era came along, Lansky was as ready in New York as Tucker was ready in Cleveland to take advantage of opportunities to find a security past generations had not known.

The East Side of New York, a teaming "Hell's Kitchen," produced many youths with similar ambitions. Of them all, Lansky became most closely associated with Bugsy Siegel and Vincent Alo.

Siegel, as noted, is dead, but Alo — better known as Jimmy Blue Eyes — is today a neighbor of Lansky in Hollywood.

Life could be rough in the days when the Bugs & Meyer Mob was in the process of formation. The boys actually began as partners in a rental car business, but that proved a flop. They turned to hijacking cars and trucks loaded with illicit booze, and made money. So efficient did they become, the booze barons found it wise to hire them to protect the shipments — and that proved even more profitable.

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## 7 Arrests, No Jail For Meyer Lansky

IN THE period from 1918 to 1932, Lansky was arrested seven times on charges ranging from disorderly conduct to suspicion of homicide — but he didn't go to jail. The following episode, pieced together from official records collected over a period of 20 years, tells why:

In 1926, a meeting was held at the home of Louis Lepke — even then a power in the garment industry and active with Jacob (Yascha) Katzenberg in the narcotics traffic bankrolled by Rothstein. Purpose of the meeting was to discuss a warehouse robbery. Among those at the meeting were Lansky, Siegel, Sam (Red) Levine, and an ex-con known as John Barrett.

Barrett was on the spot, accused of stealing part of the loot from the warehouse job. He was unable to con-

vince the boys of his innocence. When they left Lepke's home, Siegel took the wheel of the car. Barrett was told to sit in the front seat beside him. In the back were several men, including Lansky.

Two versions exist as to what happened next. Barrett told police at the time that he was shot by Lansky and thrown from the car. Other witnesses said he was shot after he leaped from the car. In any event he was almost dead when found. On the basis of his mumbled information, Lansky was arrested.

Added information comes from a man known as Daniel Ahearn. He has related how in the days when Barrett was near death, Siegel and his friends considered visiting him in the hospital.

Instead, they sent Ahearn with a dish of chiboni (chicken), well seasoned with strychnine. Barrett threw it out.

When Ahearn reported failure, ill-feeling developed. Meanwhile, apparently taking the hint, Barrett recovered sufficiently to refuse to sign a complaint against anyone. The charges against Lansky were dropped.

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## Ahearn, Siegel Feud Comes to a Climax

THERE WAS a sequel. Sometime later the ill-feeling between Ahearn and Siegel came to a climax. Ahearn slapped Siegel. Next morning he was walking along Broome Street when a car driven by Jake Lansky pulled up. The Bug, as Siegel was known, got out of the car and shot Ahearn in the face and arm.

Ahearn refused to talk to police, but he told a friend, Peter Bender, about it. Bender went hunting for the shooter. He never came back. Barrett, by then back in the good graces of the boys, said he was "taken for

a ride."

The reputation developed by the Bugs & Meyer Mob made it logical that it should be hired as an enforcement arm when in 1928 rival bootleggers along the Eastern Seaboard joined together in a loose alliance. The organization took form at the Claridge Hotel with Joe Adonis, sometimes known as "Joey A," emerging as the top man.

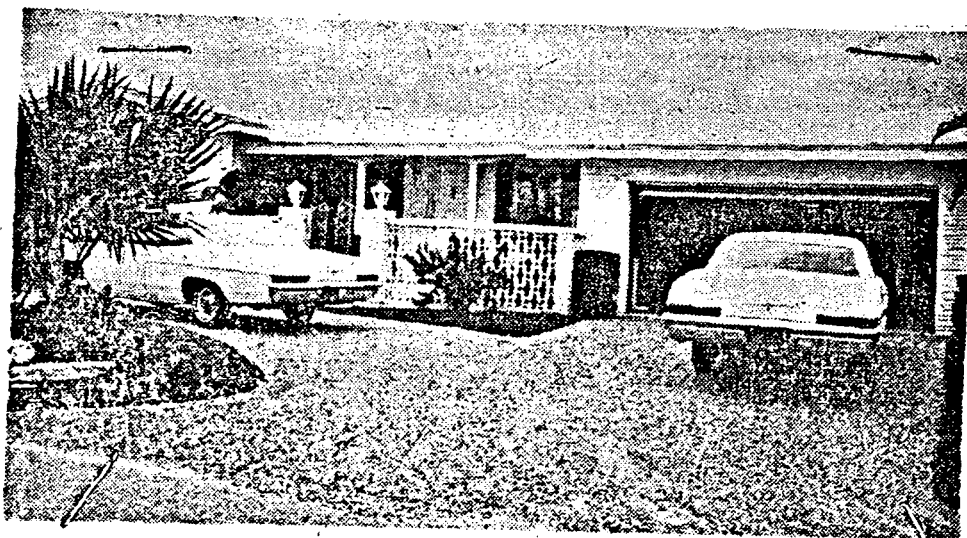
An agreement was reached with Sam Blum of Chicago to bring in six boxcar loads of liquor per week from the South. Blum obtained most of it in Nassau and landed it in Florida and Georgia. Each car totaled 870 cases, and more than 100 carloads readied New York. Of the total, five carloads went to the Cleveland Syndicate which operated a branch office on the East Coast.

Blum was occasionally hijacked, however, and he hired the "Two Bugs," as Lansky and Siegel were known, to protect his shipments. The boys were taken into the expanding "combination" as full-time members and soon achieved equality with Adonis.

Others in the organization included Lucky Luciano, Frank Costello, and Phil Kovolick, of New York, Longie Zwillman in New Jersey, and Charles (King) Solomon in Boston, Mass. After much jousting for power, and the elimination of such rivals as Dutch (Mad Dog) Schultz, the Eastern Syndicate took form.

Within a few years — after a joint venture with the Cleveland Syndicate proved the value of regional cooperation — a national organization came into being. Its founders "cut up" the country. The "Two Bugs" had their choice.

Siegel selected the West Coast and made his headquarters at Hollywood, Calif. Lansky took the Southeast, and set up shop in Hollywood, Fla.



**Millionaire Lansky Lives in Modest Home in Hallandale**  
*... syndicate boss drives rented Chevrolets*

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# Gangster's Molasses Paved His Way Into the Big Time

In any history of organized crime in the U.S., Meyer Lansky, a long-time resident of South Florida, would loom large. This second of a series presents the story of how Lansky began his career in the Prohibition Era.

By HANK MESSICK  
Herald Special Writer

Former manicurist Teddy Schwartz is today the wife of one of the most powerful gangsters in the world, but she is suspicious of strangers.

The fact that her husband, Meyer Lansky, is also one of the richest men in the world may have something to do with it.

A visitor can talk into a built-in microphone by the door of the modest ranch-style house at 612 Hibiscus Drive, Hallandale. If he can convince Teddy he isn't a holdup man, she will come to the window to continue the conversation.

If the visitor can persuade the attractive blonde he isn't a "fed," she may even open the door on a chain and talk face to face through a four-inch crack.

## The Story MEYER LANSKY

Once talking, she tends to open up. The visitor may hear, among other things, that her husband is a much misunderstood individual and that Sam Tucker, 1437 Biscaya Dr. in Surfside, is "a sweet man."

**THE DESCRIPTION** is apt. Long ago when Lansky's present wife was a child, Tucker and Lansky were partners in a very sweet business — the manufacture of powdered molasses and the subsequent use of the "molaska" in the production of illicit alcohol.

Tucker and his partners in the Cleveland Syndicate proved by their business relationship with Lansky and his Eastern Syndicate associates that inter-regional cooperation was possible. The Molaska Corporation not only operated the largest illicit distilleries ever found in this country, it paved the way for the National Syndicate.

Carefully selected "fronts" represented the Cleveland boys. Lansky also had a front — his father-in-law, Moses Citron. When interviewed later, by investigators, Citron blamed Lansky for getting him involved as treasurer of the corporation. Lansky represented to him, he said, that considerable money could be made in the molasses business.

According to Citron, Lansky owned the Elaine Food Co. in Brooklyn, but, of late had been devoting most of his time to Molaska. Other sources confirmed that Lan-

sky, through Citron, invested \$121,000 in Molaska. One of the plants for the manufacturer of powdered molasses was established at Elizabeth, N. J. Tucker of Cleveland was present with Citron when the lease was signed.

### Some Stills Cracked, But Others Escaped

**THE NEW JERSEY** plant was closed shortly after Molaska's huge distillery near the plant was raided on February 9, 1935. The New York Times quoted one of the raiders as saying the still was "large enough to flood New York and New Jersey with illicit alcohol."

Less than a month before, an even larger still operated by Molaska was knocked off at Zanesville, Ohio. Investigators discovered it had previously been located in the heart of Cleveland.

Other stills continued to operate, however. Lansky's boys handled the output of at least eight of their own, and worked jointly with the Cleveland group in disposing of the flow from 10 other distilleries.

The operation was based on the simple premise that the end of prohibition notwithstanding, a good market existed for untaxed whisky. It was cheaper —

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include the off-shore islands — Cuba and the Bahamas.

### He Divided the Year In Florida, Havana

and, in those days at least, of equal quality. Only the approach of World War II, and sugar rationing, put a temporary end to the business.

### Lucky, Meyer, Bug Handled Questions

MEANWHILE, the National Syndicate had come into being — a loose alliance which confirmed existing territories and franchises and divided up the rest. Thus Dixie Davis, former attorney for the Boss of the Bronx, Dutch Schultz, could note years later:

"Moey Davis became the power in Cleveland, and anyone who questioned it would have to deal with Lucky and Meyer and the Bug."

"Moey" Davis was the name commonly used by Sam Tucker's partner, Moe Daltz. The two men, along with Louis Rothkopf, now dead, and Morris Kleinman, shared equally in the ventures of the Cleveland Syndicate.

Lucky was, of course, Luciano. Meyer and the Bug were those old partners, Lansky and Siegel. Luciano ultimately came to be regarded as Capo dei Capo of the Mafia, but in the National Syndicate he was only a representative of the Eastern cartel.

The National Syndicate made it possible for men in various parts of the country to work together.

As part of the spoils of union, Lansky asked for and obtained control of gambling in the Southeastern U.S. He soon expanded his domain to

WHILE MAINTAINING an apartment in New York, Lansky spent six months each year in Hollywood, Fla., and Havana.

This period of divided residence lasted from 1936 to 1953, when Lansky vacated his New York apartment and moved to the home of his brother, Jake, at 1146 Harrison St., Hollywood.

In the early years Lansky's interests ranged from a huge handbook at the Hollywood Beach Hotel — which had a daily handle of \$50,000 during the season — to a race track and gambling casino in Havana.

Frank Erickson, later to become famous as a bookie, shared the Havana operation. The casino, said by Lansky to have more floor space for gambling than any place in the Western Hemisphere, was the Nacional. Years later, Lansky was to arrange for his old Cleveland friends to operate the casino in the days before Castro spoiled the fun.

The first Cuban venture, as in the case of Molasko, was terminated by World War II. As Lansky put it to the Kefauver Committee:

"We stopped when the war broke out. You see, because after that, there weren't any boats on the sea. And at that time you didn't have enough planes, and you couldn't live from the planes coming from Miami. You can't live from Cuban people themselves."

The end of the Havana venture didn't end the friendship that had developed between Lansky and Cuban dictator Fulgencio Batista. In years to come that friendship was to ripen under the

Florida sun and pay big dividends for both men in the 1950's.

### Pal 'Judge Louis' Became Very Hot

MEANWHILE, another "war" was causing headach-

es. "Judge Louis," as Lansky's old pal Lepke Buchalter was known, had become very hot. He went into hiding in 1937 and continued to direct Murder, Inc. Indeed, much work of this successor to the Bugs & Meyer Mob concerned the elimination of witnesses against Lepke.

As the hunt continued, other top gangsters felt the heat. The conviction grew that unless Lepke could make a deal, business everywhere would be ruined. Thus a meeting was held at the home of Longie Zwillman's mother. Lansky attended.

The decision was reached — Lepke would have to surrender or leave the country. On August 24, 1939, Lepke surrendered to J. Edgar Hoover. Ultimately he was executed — the only major gangster to so pay for his crimes.

The continuing heat generated by New York District Attorney Thomas Dewey netted another kingpin. Lansky's old associate from rum-running days, Charles (Lucky) Luciano, was sent to prison for his role in the operation of a giant prostitution ring in New York.

He was supposed to spend a minimum of 30 years there, but immediately efforts began to free him. World War II provided the means — called "Operation Underworld."

### Their Big Problem: His Cooperation

THE KEFAUVER COMMITTEE developed the story. It seems that Naval Intelligence needed help from the Mafia to protect East Coast shipping from saboteurs and to ease the way into Sicily

for Allied troops. It was determined that Luciano was the man to arrange things.

The problem was to make him cooperate. Luciano's attorney, Moses Polakoff, suggested that one man could achieve this — Meyer Lansky.

To make things convenient, Luciano was moved to a closer prison. Thereafter, at frequent intervals, Polakoff, Lansky and anyone who needed to receive orders, met with Luciano. How much this all contributed to the national security remains a military secret.

There can be no doubt it was beneficial to Luciano. At war's end he was paroled on condition he go home to Italy.

Seeing him off at the boat was Lansky. As he told the Kefauver Committee:

"I went to see Luciano while he was in jail and the district attorney's office asked me to go there. Now, don't you think I should have gone down to say goodbye to him?"

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# Gamblers' Foe Given Choice: Green Cash or Silver Bullet

A man who has lived in South Florida for years — Meyer Lansky — is probably the biggest name in organized crime today. This article, third in a series, by Herald Specialist Hank Messick examines the impact of Lansky and his cohorts upon gambling on the Gold Coast.

By HANK MESSICK  
Herald Special Writer

It was about 8 p.m. on an August day in 1949 when a long black Cadillac stopped at the house of Lee A. Wentworth in Hollywood, Fla.

Wentworth later told the Kefauver Committee that Hollywood attorney Joe

Varen got out of the car and went to the door.

At his request, Wentworth "stepped over to the car." A man sat at the wheel.

"This is Mr. Lansky," said the attorney. "Mr. Jake Lansky." The lawyer got into the car beside Lansky. Wentworth waited. He knew Jake Lansky was the brother of Meyer Lansky and the so-called "front" man in the operation of several plush casinos in South Broward.

Wentworth also knew that other nationally known gangsters were making their home in Hollywood. Frank Costello was building a house there. Vincent (Jimmy Blue Eyes) Alo already had a home there as did Phil (the Stick) Kovolick and many more.

It was this knowledge, plus the fact that local law enforcement officials were not doing anything about wide open gambling in the area, that had attracted Wentworth, A. B. Brown, Dave Mears and Homer Austin, all of Hollywood, to seek injunc-

## The Story of MEYER LANSKY



tions against gambling joints. Attorney John Tolar of Fort Lauderdale had been retained to represent the men in court.

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WENTWORTH, a building contractor and former Hollywood tax assessor, knew something of the way things are arranged. He was not surprised, therefore, when Lansky asked:

"Mr. Wentworth, don't you think you are taking on a little more than you can manage?"

"I don't know," replied Wentworth. "I am going to do the best I can."

"Would you be interested in \$25,000?" said Lansky.

"Yes, sir," countered Wentworth. "I would be interested in it, but, frankly, I think more of my life than that."

He turned and re-entered the house. The black Cadillac drove away. Two or three nights later another car returned. A man came to Wentworth's door and asked him to look at something in the back of the car.

In testimony before the Kefauver Committee in 1951, Wentworth described what happened:

"These two men were sitting on the back seat of the car, and one of them had a large box in his hand that looked like a white shoe box, and he said:

### Bullet or Dollars: Which Would It Be?

"WE HAVE \$25,000 here. It's a question of doing one of two things. You know how these things end. Either they end with a silver bullet or silver dollar."

"I was a little worried about the silver bullet," continued Wentworth, "so I walked in the house, got my shotgun, walked to the door and told them I was going to count to five and then start shooting. They drove off."

Nothing much happened to Wentworth — and not much happened immediately to the wide-open gambling empire Meyer Lansky had established in South Florida.

But John Tolar — who today recalls walking down a street in Hollywood and seeing gambling at seven locations — wrote to a friend of Estes Kefauver about the situation. Next year the Kefauver Committee came to Miami and the plush casinos closed.

Ironically, as a result of the heat, Jake Lansky was arrested on gambling charges. For years he had boasted of never getting as much as a traffic ticket.

This "clean" record had enabled him to serve his brother well as a front man. He escaped with two \$5,000 fines in 1951, but was not content.

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## Pardon Board Gave A Christmas Gift

HE WANTED his record clean once more, and in 1954 the State Parole Board presented him with a full pardon as a Christmas present.

The pardon was granted despite opposition by the State Parole Commission.

But dozens of letters from Broward County citizens, including one from then Sheriff Amos Hall, were presented as proof of Lansky's "splendid character and reputation." Hollywood attorney Joe Varon appeared

personally before the Parole Board on behalf of Jake.

The story of the Broward County casino operation is an oft-told tale. It centered in the Hallandale-Hollywood area where the Lanskys had been buying real estate since 1936. The Colonial Inn, next door to the Gulfstream Race Track, was perhaps the most plush of the "rug joints."

Records of Eastern Syndicate gambler Frank Erickson showed that in one year, Nov. 1, 1945, to Oct. 31, 1946, the Colonial Inn netted a profit of \$685,538.

## The Detroit Boys Got Biggest Share

OF THE TOTAL, Meyer and Jake Lansky each received 10 per cent, or \$68,553. Another Lansky man, George Sadlo, was credited with the same amount. Two old associates from the Prohibition Era, Joe (Adonis) Doto and Jimmy Blue Eyes, owned 5 and 7½ per cent respectively. Erickson, S. L. Bartt, Richard Melvin and Bert Briggs together owned 25 per cent.

The biggest share, 32½ per cent, was controlled by the so-called Chesterfield Syndicate of Detroit. Its boss was Mert Wertheimer.

The Detroit boys were pushed out in 1947. Years before, the Eastern Syndicate had achieved a special understanding as part of the national organization with James C. McKay and William J. Graham who controlled Reno, Nev., in the days before Las Vegas bloomed with neon light.

In return for the Detroit boys quitting South Florida, McKay and Graham permitted them to relocate at the Riverside Club in Reno.

An injunction closed the Colonial Inn in 1948, and it burned in 1964. But Lansky and company moved to the north side of Gulfstream and continued operations as usual at the Club Boheme. Directly west across U.S. 1, the boys operated a "sawdust joint," the Club Greenacres.

It was there the so-called "New York crap game" was run by William G. Bischoff, alias Lefty Clark. Banking Bischoff was an old associate of the Cleveland Syndicate — Joe Massel of Detroit.

On the north side of Hallandale Beach Blvd. and east of Federal Highway was "the Farm" — a center for the distribution of racing information to handbooks in Dade and Broward Counties. Years before it had been known as "the Plantation."

Proving that things don't change very much, the Farm became the Plantation again last year. Jake Lansky is now the man behind the front and the food, as usual, is good.

## His Busy Brother Spread Over Nation

WHILE JAKE was minding the store in Broward County, his brother was active in many parts of the country. In 1942, he joined with local talent to operate a dog track in Council Bluffs, Iowa.

In 1943 he acquired the Manhattan Simplex Co. Inc., of New York. It became the Emby Distributing Corporation which controlled coin-operated juke boxes. A relat-

ed investment, along with Costello and Adonis, was in Consolidated Television, Inc., which later became Tele-A-King.

In 1945, the plush Beverly Club was organized in New Orleans where since 1940 Lansky shared an interest with Costello and Philip (Dandy Phil) Kastel in the slot-machine businesses of the Louisiana Mint Company.

Prior to the club's opening in December, Lansky contributed \$60,000 to a \$300,000 "suspense account." Costello and Kastel put up much of the rest. Local talent was represented by Carlos Marcello, the "little big man" and Mafia boss in New Orleans.

Meanwhile, Lansky's old partner in the Bugs & Meyer Mob, Bugsy Siegel, left his headquarters in Hollywood, Calif., to begin the development of Las Vegas. Lansky joined with him in 1945 to purchase the El Cortez Hotel. Next year the Nevada Projects Corporation was formed to operate Siegel's dream hotel-casino, the Flamingo.

Lansky and other members of the syndicate poured money into what at times appeared to be but a pipe dream — the first major hotel on what was to become famous as "the Strip."

## Murder Followed The First Profits

SIEGEL WAS murdered in 1947, shortly after the Flamingo showed its first profit. A series of owners, or alleged owners, followed. But when in 1960, the Flamingo was sold to Morris Lansburgh and associates, Lansky received a "finder's fee" of \$200,000.

Saratoga, N.Y., was also

developed as a gambler's town. Lansky, Costello and Adonis first invested in the Piping Rock Casino there in 1941. Later, in 1947, Lansky joined his friends in the L&L Company to run gambling at the Arrowhead Inn.

It was a mistake.

As result of Kefauver "heat," a probe was

launched. Lansky was indicted and in 1953 sentenced to three months in prison.

It was his first prison sentence and it was enough to disgust Lansky. Although he had been spending half the year in Hollywood, Fla., since 1936, he had maintained residence in New York. Upon getting out of prison, he vacated his apartment, sold his furniture, and

moved to Hollywood to stay.

He could feel safe there. More than that — big things were brewing just 90 miles away in Cuba.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# Florida Crime 'Money Tree' Widely Rooted

*It's a long way from 500 Fifth Ave., New York in 1934, to 420 Lincoln Rd., Miami Beach in 1966 — 1,500 miles and better than 30 years. In this first of two articles, Herald Special Writer Hank Messick attempts to bridge those gaps.*

By HANK MESSICK  
Herald Special Writer

Organized crime in South Florida is a money tree with roots in other cities, other times. It has grown because syndicate executives have been ever alert to new opportunities while catering to man's ancient vices.

Four decades of syndicate evolution separate the speak-easy and an electronic marvel known as Scopitone. Not only have the products become more complicated, but the business methods used to exploit them have also improved.

The men who once smuggled bootleg booze across Lake Erie in armored boats today employ sophisticated legal and economic tools to achieve the same basic purpose — make money.

To close the gap of time and space, to see how an office on Lincoln Rd. in 1966 can be related to an office at 500 Fifth Ave., New York, in 1934, one needs only to examine the career of Meyer Lansky of Hallandale, a city in Broward just north of the Dade County line.

Lansky began as a bootlegger in New York. He survived the civil wars of the Prohibition Era to become a leader of the Eastern Syndicate which emerged. Others who survived include such notables as Charles (Lucky) Luciano, Benjamin (Bugsy) Siegel, Louis (Lepke) Buchalter, Joe (Doto) Adonis, Vin-



**Meyer Lansky**  
... very rich gangster

cent (Jimmy Blue Eyes) Alvin and Frank Costello.

As described months ago in The Herald, Lansky and his New York allies joined with leaders of the Cleveland Syndicate to meet the new challenge of legal liquor and formed Molaska Corp. with offices at 500 Fifth Ave. The Cleveland partners included Sam Tucker and Morris Kleinman of South Florida, and Moe Dalitz of Las Vegas.

Ultimately, illegal gambling occupied the attention of syndicate executives, and they left the liquor business to lieutenants. One such underling was Louis I. Pokrass, an old-time bootlegger, who set up Capital Wine & Spirits Corp.

It lasted for 12 years before running into trouble with the Treasury Department. Pokrass had neglected

to mention such details as his own arrest record and the fact that Costello owned a secret share of the company.

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WHEN CAPITAL'S permits were revoked, Pokrass sold the company and invested the money in the syndicate's Flamingo Hotel, which Lansky's old partner, Bugsy Siegel, was promoting in Las Vegas.

Liquor continued to attract Pokrass, however, and he soon emerged with a new company at that old syndicate location, 500 Fifth Ave. Gifts to key officials eliminated the type of problems that had hurt him before, but his attention was soon distracted. Television arrived.

The syndicate was quick to grasp the potentials of the new gadget. After all, it was almost as effective as bootleg booze in making citizens glassy-eyed. Perhaps that was the reason syndicate leaders came to think of the new medium in terms of the tavern instead of the home.

Before long, Pokrass found himself head of Consolidated Television Corp. His partners included all the old gang — such astute businessmen as Costello, Adonis, Joe (Bananas) Bonanno, and, of course, Meyer Lansky.

In testimony before the Kefauver Committee in 1951, Lasky told how the syndicate became involved. The boys had learned a lot about the jukebox business, he said, to say nothing of such coin-operated devices as slot machines.

"We would buy a route," Lansky explained "maybe somebody's route, something like that, then build it up

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Tele. Room	_____
Miss Holmes	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

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The MIAMI HERALD

Miami, Florida

Being followed

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Edition:

Author:

Editor:

Title:

**MEYER LANSKY  
Info Concerning**

Character:

**[MI 92 - 102]**

Classification:

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56 JUN 7 1966  
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and try to sell it." Because "we had the knowledge of the distribution of jukeboxes," a company was formed "and we took an interest in it."

"We started to build television sets," continued Lansky, "and I think that we went in at the wrong end of it. We thought that the commercial end was the best part. We should have gone into the home set end, and maybe I would have been a very rich man today."

★ ★ ★

**LANSKY TODAY** is a very rich man — his wealth is estimated at \$300 million. Much of it is believed to be in numbered accounts at the International Credit Bank of Switzerland.

But if in 1947 he was a bit ahead of the times, there was opportunity later to make the most of a good idea.

Meanwhile, other interested in Consolidated Television included Lansky's old partners in the Cleveland Syndicate. They went so far as to remodel a used gambling casino, the Pettibone Club, and convert it into a studio for making short subjects called "soundies."

The short subjects were intended to be used in the commercial sets Consolidated Television planned to install in better bars and restaurants around the country.

When the idea didn't pay off immediately, Consolidated Television reorganized as Tele-King, and Lansky and his cohorts turned to other interests in New Orleans, Broward County and, later, in Havana.

The Cleveland Syndicate, while keeping its hand in at Havana, proceeded to exploit Bugsy Siegel's pioneering work at Las Vegas by developing the Desert Inn Stardust Hotel complex.

★ ★ ★

**FIFTEEN YEARS** after Lansky discussed the syndicate's first adventure with

the new medium, a federal grand jury in New York began questioning witnesses about a new venture which bears a striking resemblance to the first.

The grand jury in 1966 is seeking to learn more about Tel-A-Sign Inc., a well established Chicago company which bought and plans to market a machine known as Scopitone — a combination jukebox-motion picture device intended for use in the better bars and restaurants around the country.

Leading the probe is U.S. Attorney Robert M. Morgenthau, a man with a tremendous capacity for work and with two framed pictures of former Attorney General Robert Kennedy in his office.

Clearly, Morgenthau intends to carry on the war against crime begun by Kennedy. Under his direction, the grand jury recently sent out subpoenas requiring witnesses to bring with them all records concerning a number

of individuals and such financial institutions as the International Credit Bank and the Union Bank of Switzerland. Also named were the Nassau based Bank of World Commerce and Atlas Bank Ltd.

Among the individuals about whom information is being sought are Meyer Lansky, Vincent (Jimmy Blue Eyes) Alo, Gerald Catena, Abe Green, Thomas Eboli, Clifford A. Jones, H. I. Fischbach, Alvin I. Malnik and Jay W. Weiss.

Lansky, as previously mentioned, is a top gangster. His neighbor in Broward County Jimmy Blue Eyes, is the man originally selected to fill the shoes of Joe Adonis when Joe was deported.

Later, Jimmy replaced Costello as "coordinator" of the syndicate and its Mafia components. As such, his job today is to act as a bridge

between Lansky and such Mafia big shots as Michael (Trigger Mike) Coppola in South Florida, and Catena and Eboli in the New York-New Jersey area.

★ ★ ★

**CATENA AND EBOLI** took over direction of the Vito Genovese Mafia "family" when Vito went to prison on a narcotics rap. Abe Green is one of the high-ranking couriers who carries cash to Lansky and Catena. In between trips he watches his interests in those vending machine companies Lansky once discussed.

Cliff Jones is the former lieutenant governor of Nevada who "fronted" for Lansky at the Thunderbird Hotel in Las Vegas when Meyer wanted his interest in that casino concealed. He was associated with such old Newport-Miami hoods as Ed Levinson and Irving (Nig) Devine in the Bank of World Commerce Ltd. Recently he was indicated in perjury charges in connection with the investigation of his business associate, Bobby Baker.

Fischbach is the Miami Beach attorney who in 1957 aided Teamsters President James Hoffa in placing an agent on the staff of the McClellan Committee, which was then probing the union. The agent reported the approach made to him and the episode resulted in Hoffa's arrest on bribery charges. He was later acquitted.

Weiss, together with his father and uncle, had been involved in the liquor business in Florida. Along with Malnik and Fischbach, he has been associated in other spectacular stock transactions.

Malnik is a young attorney with offices at 420 Lincoln Road, Miami Beach. He was in the Bank of World Commerce with Jones, Devine and Levinson. For a man so young, he had come a long way in a hurry and he is quick to credit an ability to make friends for much of his success.

The nature of his friendships will be discussed in the next article.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# Lansky Denies Any Income From Casinos, Beach Hotel

Special To The Herald

DETROIT — In a rare interview, international mob kingpin Meyer Lansky denied that he gets any cash out of Bahamas casinos, insisted his only current holding in South Florida is his home and claimed he has no intention of ducking a Broward Grand Jury subpoena.

The usually unapproachable Lansky talked to two Knight Newspapers reporters while visiting in the Motor City.

Lansky, the most publicized organized crime figure in the world these days, was described as an "ideal guest" at a Howard Johnson's Motel.



**Meyer Lansky**  
... 'ideal guest'

ald's exposures of mob-infiltration of some oceanfront hosteleries.

"I never did understand all the bad publicity about the oceanfront hotels," Lansky said.

Referring to one of the hotels, he said: "The best people went there. We had all kinds of proms and things..."

"But I don't have any interests there anymore. I sold all that." He did not name the hotel.

This was the first time Lansky himself has personally acknowledged having had interests in Miami Beach hotels, although his associates appear on numerous leases and sales.

Lansky has been spending much of his time in the past two months around the \$18-a-day room at Howard Johnson's, apparently seeing few of his underworld cronies.

He passes part of the time reading and re-reading countless magazine and newspaper articles that have in the past year traced the life of crime which brought Lansky riches estimated as high as \$300 million.

Many of the articles have dwelled on Lansky's sub-rosa takeover of legalized gambling operations in the Bahamas.

"I certainly don't get any money out of there," Lansky said calmly, lounging with Mrs. Lansky and the Knight representatives.

Lansky said his only current interest in South Florida is his home in Hallandale, at 615 Hibiscus, Golden Isles.

One of the reporters wondered how he makes money if he has nothing in Florida or in the Bahamas anymore.

Lansky smiled at the question, shrugged and said: "I told you I had interests."

The Broward Grand Jury has a subpoena waiting for Lansky, who denied that he's hiding in Detroit.

"If they want to arrest me they certainly can," offered Lansky. "I'll be back there later this spring." The current Grand Jury's term ends this spring.

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Wick \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Casper \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Conrad \_\_\_\_\_  
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Mr. Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Holmes \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

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 Tele. Room ☐  
 Holmes ☐  
 Gandy ☐

# Underworld Genius

## How One Gang Leader Thrives While Others Fall by the Wayside

Meyer Lansky Stays on Top  
 By Avoiding Flamboyance,  
 Setting Up New Ventures

[Helping Out His FBI Shadow

By NICHOLAS GAGE

Staff Reporter of THE WALL STREET JOURNAL  
**MIAMI BEACH** — The attorney general of Florida is investigating the affairs of Meyer Lansky, possibly the most powerful leader of organized crime in the country.

Does that bother Meyer Lansky? Sure it does. It bothers him about as much as the FBI agents who tail him constantly—the agents who have discovered that whenever their car starts to fall behind, Meyer Lansky's car slows down to let them catch up.

That's the way it is in the world of Meyer Lansky—a man who for 50 years has thwarted the best efforts of Federal, state and local

lawmen to put him behind bars for good and who can't really be expected to stay awake nights just because one more cop has joined the parade. But Meyer Lansky, now 67, has done more than remain free. He has remained a power—some say the power—in the underworld. Indeed, of the group that in the 1930s founded the giant conglomerate that is organized crime today, Lansky alone survives and wields power. And that, perhaps, is more a measure of the man.

So it's not surprising that on a recent sunny Friday afternoon, while both Attorney General Earl Faircloth and Governor Claude Kirk were threatening vigorous campaigns against organized crime in Florida, Lansky was coolly walking his dog in front of the luxury apartment building where he lives, his countenance as cheerful as the blue-checked shirt he wore. Only when a car slowed alongside did apprehension cross his face, and he dashed into his beachfront apartment at 600 Collins Avenue, just up the road from the Fontainebleau Hotel.



Notoriety may be the only thing Meyer Lansky fears. Guided by that fear and by a mind that is easily the most brilliant in the underworld, he has shaped the organized crime syndicate into a well-disciplined operation. The syndicate as ruled by Lansky and colleagues draws up contracts for mergers rather than murders and employs battalions of accountants and attorneys, not bodyguards.

"If Meyer Lansky had gone into legitimate business instead of into the mob back in the 1920s, he'd be the chairman of the board of General Motors today," says a Federal agent with grudging admiration. It was Lansky who persuaded the syndicate to de-emphasize such high-risk and high-publicity ventures as narcotics, prostitution and murder-by-contract and to plunge into the safer, more profitable fields of banking, insurance, real estate and gambling, both legal and illegal. And it was Lansky who pioneered in developing the intricate network of fronts that allows the syndicate to operate numerous enterprises without revealing a visible connection to them.

### Numbered Accounts

That system works like this: Mob money is sent to numbered bank accounts in Switzerland via courier. Middlemen in Europe then draw out some of the money and send it to agents—usually lawyers or brokers—in the U.S., sometimes with specific instructions on how to invest it, sometimes with orders to invest it in any manner the agent sees fit. The middleman in Europe knows who he's working for. The agent who deals with the middleman usually doesn't.

Federal agents estimate Lansky's personal fortune in numbered accounts abroad may approach \$300 million. Lately, a lot of that money has been finding its way back to the U.S. to be invested in real estate in Florida and the Caribbean. (In such transfers of Lansky money, the key middleman is often John Pullman, a Russian-born Canadian now living in Switzerland.)

Lansky has been known to put money directly into businesses, too—when he's sure he has a front man whose lips are sealed. Attorney General Faircloth has charged that Lansky and other racketeers are behind many of this city's plush motels. He recently filed 21 civil suits against 15 motels under a controversial new state law that gives him the power to revoke the corporate charters of any firm directly or indirectly connected to organized crime.

The Washington Post \_\_\_\_\_  
 Times Herald \_\_\_\_\_  
 The Washington Daily News \_\_\_\_\_  
 The Evening Star (Washington) \_\_\_\_\_  
 The Sunday Star (Washington) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Daily News (New York) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Sunday News (New York) \_\_\_\_\_  
 New York Post \_\_\_\_\_  
 The New York Times \_\_\_\_\_  
 The Sun (Baltimore) \_\_\_\_\_  
 The Daily World \_\_\_\_\_  
 The New Leader \_\_\_\_\_  
 The Wall Street Journal ☒  
 The National Observer \_\_\_\_\_  
 People's World \_\_\_\_\_  
 Examiner (Washington) \_\_\_\_\_

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### New Front Men

But there's some doubt about the new law's Constitutionality—to say nothing of the likelihood of getting hard proof of a connection between the motels and mob figures like Lansky. (See story on page 20.) "Even if the law sticks, all Lansky and his pals have to do is replace old front men with new ones and they're back in business," says one skeptical investigator who has pursued mobsters for years.

Adds another law enforcement agent: "It's going to take more than a few civil suits to touch a man like Meyer Lansky."

What manner of man is Lansky? The standard Hollywood portrait of an underworld kingpin is well-known. He should be paunchy, in keeping with a love for good food and wine. He should have diamonds and sapphires sparkling on his pudgy fingers. His suits should be as flashy as the showgirls on his arm. He should have a loud, jovial manner that can turn suddenly to murderous rage when he is crossed. He should live well and show it, luxuriating in penthouse apartments, country estates and black limousines.

Meyer Lansky fits none of those stereotypes. He is a thin, gray-haired man with a pinched face, who wears conservative, modestly priced suits and speaks softly and with a wry sense of humor. Earlier this year a reporter asked him for a statement after a grand jury appearance. "I don't want to take the drama out of your stories, so I don't think I'll say anything," Lansky said as he walked away, smiling. Last week, just before another grand jury appearance, Lansky joked with reporters who requested interviews and gave a bit of fatherly Jewish advice: "If you don't have a sense of humor, you don't have anything."

As befits one so mild of manner, Lansky lives in a style that would provoke no jealousy in any upper-middle-class neighborhood. Until recently, he lived in a \$60,000 ranch-house in Hallendale, Miami suburb, and drove a rented Chevrolet. He sold the house and moved into a beachfront apartment with tighter security after he learned that "young Turks" of the underworld might try to kidnap him for ransom—a fate that befell some New York gang leaders last year.

Lansky's "office" is a backroom in the Singapore Hotel here, where he meets friends and colleagues and conducts "business." He is said to spend much of his time thinking up and implementing new projects and prefers to let his lieutenants run his established enterprises. He takes frequent trips to Europe—ostensibly for pleasure, in fact for both pleasure and business.

In trying to foster the image of a genial, withdrawn businessman of modest means, Lansky is thorough to the last detail. It's said that in filing his income tax returns, he portrays himself as a retired investor living in moderate comfort off the return of a few prudent holdings. He is reported to justify every expenditure to the last cent and even to skip some of the deductions he is entitled to.

### Convenient Illnesses

Partly to preserve the image, partly because he does value his privacy, Lansky doesn't like to be crowded—by either the law or his colleagues. When he feels that's happening, he resorts to a favorite trick to throw off those who hound him—he pretends he is a sick man, close to death.

Whenever the heat is on—an investigation made public, a grand jury inquiry, a new task force of Federal crimefighters on his trail—stories suddenly abound that Meyer Lansky is dying of cancer or some other terminal illness. In the files of the New York State Police, there exists a report made out in the 1920s that says Meyer Lansky is a bad guy, all right, but there's no need to worry because he's a sickly man who won't live out the year. In fact, Lansky looks 10 years younger than his age and enjoys excellent health. "He'll probably live to be 100," says an old friend and former racketeer.

It is because Lansky doesn't fit the flamboyant picture of the crime boss that he is still around, lawmen say. Those of his early colleagues who savored the sweet life—Bugsy Siegel, Frank Costello, Louis Lepke, Lucky Luciano—have paid dearly for enjoying the spotlight of center stage; all of them have been either murdered, knocked from power, imprisoned or deported. Fellow gangsters deposed Frank Costello, for example, because he had become too much of an attention-attracting personality. Bugsy Siegel was machine-gunned to death after his lavish spending got him into hock with gang chieftains.

But despite the inconspicuous manner, Meyer Lansky is no stranger to the violence and strong-arm tactics of the underworld. Born Maier Suchowjansky in Grodno, Russia, Lansky arrived in the U.S. at age nine. His family settled in New York's immigrant slums. By the time he was 27, young Maier had five arrests on his record, on charges ranging from disorderly conduct to suspicion of murder, but he was never convicted. He had begun his painstaking climb up the underworld ladder.

In 1926, a man named John Barrett was found in a New York alley, near death from bullet wounds. At the hospital, Barrett said Lansky had shot him after an argument over the division of loot from a warehouse robbery, and he agreed to testify to that effect in court. A few days later, Barrett's hospital food was somehow poisoned. He recovered, but he got the message and refused to sign a complaint.

### Bugs and Meyer

It was during the 1920s that Lansky became a pal and partner of Bugsy Siegel. The two became a formidable pair, first as hired gunmen for Legs Diamond, soon as leaders of their own gang, called the "Bugs and Meyer Mob." Their specialty was protecting liquor in transit from hijackers to East Coast gangs. They were good at it, and when an alliance called the Eastern syndicate was formed to coordinate rum-running, Lansky and Siegel were named to the board. Lansky was put in charge of handling the syndicate's finances.

By the early 1930s, the Eastern syndicate began to form a loose alliance with other regional mobs. Thus was the national syndicate born. Each gang retained its own identity and pursued its own activities, with the federation coming together occasionally to discuss matters of common interest. Final decisions rested with individual gang leaders, with one acting as federation chairman. The first chairman was Lucky Luciano, head of the Mafia in the East.

In the federation, Lansky and his New York cohorts learned that some gangs relied on more subtle methods. The Cleveland syndicate, for example, preferred the bribe to the bullet, and its leaders led quiet personal lives, careful to provide themselves with convincing fronts. Lansky began to ponder their methods.

But during the 1930s, there was little time for reflection. With the repeal of prohibition, activities such as prostitution, hijacking, gambling, narcotics and extortion became more important to the mob. Lansky, Siegel, Luciano and Lepke set up a factory to process drugs. Lepke founded a group of paid killers who replaced the Bugs and Meyer Mob and became the syndicate's enforcement arm. The group was dubbed Murder Incorporated and killed over 800 persons before racket-busters Burton Turkus and Thomas E. Dewey put it out of business and sent Lepke to the electric chair.

#### Getting Out of Town

The efforts of the two prosecutors shook the Eastern syndicate to its roots. Siegel fled to Hollywood. Lansky found New York too hot for comfort and moved to Florida. Luciano stood his ground and lost—he was convicted by Mr. Dewey and sentenced to 50 years in prison. But 1,200 miles to the south, Meyer Lansky was finding Florida to be fertile ground. Remembering the lessons of the Cleveland syndicate, he sowed bribes among police and politicians and his efforts bore fruit.

Many years later the Kefauver Committee heard Walter Clark, sheriff of Broward County, Fla., confess that, from 1933 to 1952 he provided "special policing" for Lansky's illegal gambling houses and even deputized the Lansky men who carried the cash in armored cars from the casinos to banks.

During World War II, Lansky played a part in an incredible alliance between the underworld and the U.S. Navy. The full story has never been told, although some clues came out in the Kefauver hearings a decade later. Apparently, the Navy decided East Coast piers could be protected from sabotage only with the aid of the Mafia. Lucky Luciano was locked away, but he still held power and the loyalty of Mafia members. Luciano's attorney and Meyer Lansky were recruited to persuade Luciano to give the arrangement his blessing. After several months of prison visits, Luciano agreed—to exactly what, it isn't known, but after the war, Lucky was paroled and sent home to Italy or promised he would never again enter the U.S.

#### The Top Rung

With Luciano gone, a triumvirate of Lansky, Joe Adonis and Frank Costello took over leadership of the syndicate. By the late 1950s, Costello had been ousted from power by his colleagues and Adonis had been deported. Lansky sat alone at the top. Meantime, his old friends still on lower rungs of the ladder began to fall by the wayside. Bugsy Siegel poured so much mob money into the building of the Flamingo Hotel in Las Vegas that, when it promptly flopped upon opening, he was gunned down.

That crime was never solved, but over the years Lansky has shown a continuing keen interest in the fortunes of the Flamingo. In 1960, when the owner of the hotel-casino—Parvin-Dohrmann Co. of Los Angeles—began casting about for a buyer, Lansky turned up again. The company paid him \$200,000 as a "finders fee" to help sell the hotel to a group headed by Morris Landsburgh, a Florida hotel man.

A contract signed by Lansky and Albert Parvin, then head of the company, reads: "Flamingo recognizes and acknowledges that it has been solely through the information and advice supplied by Lansky that the sale may be made. . . ." (Asked earlier this month how he came to secure Lansky's aid, Mr. Parvin said, "I'm not going to talk to you. I don't know what you're talking about. You press people never print the truth anyway. You're not getting any answer from me.")

Between Bugsy Siegel's death in 1947 and the 1960 sale of the Flamingo, Lansky kept busy, expanding his power and the scope of the mob's operations. He also discovered a new romance. A pretty manicurist at New York's Embassy Hotel named Thelma Schwartz so captivated him that he obtained a divorce from his wife, Anna, along with custody of his three children. (Such was Lansky's power that he secured a West Point appointment for his eldest son, who did well at the academy and rose to the rank of captain before leaving the Army.)

#### New Opportunities

In the postwar boom, Lansky's enterprises flourished as well as his family life. He set up real estate companies and jukebox distribution outlets in several states, along with a new chain of illegal and highly lucrative casinos. With the foresight of a Wall Street expert, he even put syndicate money into the new fields of television set distribution and servicing. Although young hoods today are still much taken with the reputation Lansky built in the 1920s as a cool and efficient killer, it is his later business acumen that has won him universal respect in the underworld. Anyone who has associated with Meyer Lansky has made money; thus his friendship, attention and approval are zealously sought.

The only hiatus in the Lansky career occurred in 1950 when the Kefauver Committee turned its attention to him, giving the world the first hint of his vast power.

That setback was only minor. Lansky was ~~forced to shut down~~ his casinos in Florida and New York and was indicted for gambling violations. But efforts to deport him failed, and the worst that befell him was a three-month jail sentence. After his release, Lansky found new ground for profits in Cuba, a short hop from his Miami base. He persuaded Fulgencio Batista, then in power, to pass a law that said gambling was allowed only in hotels worth over \$1 million and then proceeded to build the only hotels that qualified. That happy state of affairs lasted until Fidel Castro came to power in 1959—Batista and Lansky fled Cuba on the same day.

Although still busy involving the syndicate in real estate and other legitimate businesses in the U.S., Lansky kept an eye out for a Caribbean venture to replace his monopoly in Cuba. When gambling was legalized in the Bahamas, and a new casino opened at the Lucayan Beach Hotel, several Lansky associates were found to be in charge. Then in 1966 revelations of questionable payments to government officials toppled the United Bahamian Party from power, and Lansky's associates were expelled from the Bahamas by the new government. (Fear of Lansky's influence remains strong in the Bahamas; when Hyman Lazar, one of the Lucayan Beach casino's new managers was observed fraternizing with Lansky in Miami Beach recently, the present owners of the casino quickly booted him out.)

#### Good News for Lansky

The setback in the Bahamas didn't curtail Lansky's interest in gambling. Federal officials believe he has extensive holdings in casinos in England, southern Europe and the Middle East, and no one is yet dismissing the likelihood that Lansky money is still, in some way, present and growing in Las Vegas. But what undoubtedly really cheers Meyer Lansky is the growing movement to legalize gambling in his own backyard—Miami Beach.

Hotel owners here are feverishly backing the movement because they're convinced they are losing business to the hotel-casinos in Puerto Rico and the Bahamas. Several Florida politicians, with one eye on the financial backing hotel owners can supply them, have come out in favor of a referendum to permit casinos in Miami Beach. Even Gov. Kirk—he of the vows to wage relentless war on organized crime in Florida—felt compelled to tell an audience recently that there is a difference between casinos controlled by the syndicate and those operated by up-and-up businessmen. "Don't tar all casinos with the same brush," cautioned the governor.

So it's no wonder that Meyer Lansky continues to foster the image of an up-and-up businessman. And with new opportunities opening up every day and old enterprises flourishing, it's no wonder Meyer Lansky looked the perfect picture of a happy man on that recent bright Friday afternoon as he walked his dog on the sun-drenched streets of Miami Beach.

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
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 Brennan, C.D. \_\_\_\_\_  
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 Holmes \_\_\_\_\_  
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**67C**

UPI-114

(MEYER LANSKY)

TEL AVIV--REPUTED MAFIA CHIEF MEYER LANSKY HAS APPLIED FOR ISRAELI CITIZENSHIP, THE NEWSPAPER HAARETZ SAID TODAY.

ISRAELI AUTHORITIES ARE AGREEABLE, THE NEWSPAPER SAID.

"I DON'T WANT TO MAKE MONEY HERE," LANSKY TOLD HAARETZ CORRESPONDENT YISRAEL LAVIV. "I AM JEWISH AND I WANT TO LIVE HERE."

LANSKY, ALLEGED ARCHITECT OF AMERICA'S ORGANIZED CRIME SYNDICATE, AND HIS WIFE ARRIVED IN ISRAEL FOUR MONTHS AGO. LANSKY'S BROTHER AND ALLEGED CHIEF ENFORCEMENT JAKE ACCOMPANIED THEM BUT LEFT FOR HOME A SHORT WHILE LATER.

AS AMERICAN CITIZENS THE LANSKYS WERE ISSUED VISAS ON ARRIVAL AT TEL AVIV'S LYDDA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT. TOURIST VISAS RUN FOR THREE MONTHS.

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Mr. Tolson  
Mr. Felt  
Mr. Sullivan  
Mr. Mohr  
Mr. Bishop  
Mr. Belmont  
Mr. Callahan  
Mr. Casper  
Mr. Conrad  
Mr. Dalbey  
Mr. Gale  
Mr. Ponder  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Tavel  
Mr. Walters  
Mr. Soyars  
Tele. Room  
Miss Holmes  
Miss Gandy

Who is Mr. Big?

Where Did Hoffa's and Lansky's  
Trails Cross -- and Why?

By Victor Riesel

Washington -- In this "whodunit" the key code name for a swiftly moving five-man anti-crime task force is "Justice 18".

Its assignment is to nail the Mr. Big of international mob finance and therefore, in a sense, the money man of the combination, the syndicate, the crowd -- call it what you will.

"Justice 18's" target is far more than the electronic computer-minded Meyer Lansky, of the old Murder, Inc. milieu (but who never touched a gun), who with his wife "Teddy" when last heard from was comfortably ensconced in room 337 of the Hotel Accadia Herzliyya just outside of Tel Aviv, Israel. Lansky also held room 315 of the Hotel Dan in town so he could mix with his crowd, especially Joe "Doc" Stacher, long Lansky's account executive for international gambling casinos, who faces a five-year Federal prison term if he returns to the U.S.

As in all whodunits, "Justice 18's" chief, 32-year-old Robert J. Campbell, has run across some weird skeins. Jimmy Hoffa, for example, president emeritus of the Teamster Brotherhood. Hoffa was driven to New York's Federal building last April 27, partly to answer grand-jury questions on how much he knew of what money was given which teamsters allegedly by Lansky's colleagues for aid in getting what loans from the \$900 million Central states, Chicago based, pension fund. Hoffa did not take the Fifth, it is said.

Also, Hoffa's trail runs across Lansky's lush trails and those of the old fox's friends and allies -- especially in Miami Beach and at least one north Miami hideout.

All this is made curiouseer by the testimony of mystery witness "Mr. White" before the McClellan racket-smashing committee -- the full political significance of which will burst like July 4 beach fireworks soon enough. "Mr. White" testified on July 22 that he dealt with associates of James Hoffa and Meyer Lansky. "Mr. White" disclosed some strange financial manipulations.

Question therefore is, who are the "associates"? With whom did they deal? What of charges that are in the New York grand jury minutes? Who got what money to help someone attempt to mulct the moneys being put aside for tens of thousands of aging teamsters who count on their pensions for surcease from the back and belly, foot and hand weariness of truck driving?

It's a long way to the denouement of the whodunit. These questions can only be answered by the godfather and grandfather known as Lansky, who now at 69 plans to settle in Israel with his crony "Doc" Stacher. Other business interests will be looked after in the U.S. by Lansky's brother Jack.

It's unfortunate "Justice 18" can't put its hands on Lansky who is under indictment on two scores -- contempt of a grand jury and violations of the gambling laws. The IRS also is deeply fascinated by the man-computer who has over \$300 million in anonymous numbered Swiss bank accounts.

"Justice 18" can keep its eye on Lansky, however, through two newly assigned FBI agents now operating out the the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv. These agents work closely with the Israeli police and investigatory sections.

9- file  
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Israeli officials talk sadly of their dilemma. Lansky has not applied for citizenship. But he gives every indication that he intends to stay under the "Law of the Return". His visa expires on August 27. But the government in Jerusalem can't expel him. If this is attempted, he can go to the High Court and demand evidence that he is a mob or Mafiosi chief. There is no such "evidence". He has been convicted only once, and got three months on this gambling charge in 1952.

This is not sufficient for deportation. And some students already have begun protesting any move which would deny him the "Right of the Law of Return" to the homeland. Furthermore, the U.S. government has not asked for his extradition or deportation. So Lansky is sitting pretty, having had to move only once from his Dan Hotel room. That was when Secretary of State William Rogers visited Israel and was lodged at the Dan.

But "Justice 18" is sweeping the nation. It has probed some 100 mob-mafia money men. It is using investigative vacuum cleaners on Miami, Washington (D.C.) New York, Chicago, Detroit, Cleveland, Minneapolis, New Orleans, Los Angeles -- and Las Vegas.

"Justice 18's" "young" chief spent much of the week of August 2 in Las Vegas where Lansky's money is believed as heavy as any other combine operation.

There is far more to this "Justice 18" operation than the peeling of Lansky's financial layers. There is more than Attorney General Mitchell's effort to caulk up the mob's invasion of legitimate business and terrorizing of labor leaders.

The goal is to rip open the whole underworld financial structure -- and, on the theory that the money men are more powerful than the muscle men, thus discover who is really the "boss".

It's not a matter of a movie scenario type Mr. No. 1. It is a matter of who, by manipulating billions of dollars, has political as well as financial influence? Who reaches into the financial district? Who reaches into the U.S. Congress? Who has paid off foreign government officials for the right to run gambling casinos?

And where did the power of a Lansky cross the distributive and transport power of a Hoffa?

Quite a whodunit.

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*[Handwritten signature]*  
 Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
 Bishop \_\_\_\_\_  
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MOB 6-14 NX

ADV FOR AMS WED JUNE 16C  
(PICTURE)

BY PETER D. LYNCH

TEL AVIV (UPI)--TO MOST ISRAELIS THE MAFIA WAS A SHADOWY ORGANIZATION, SAFELY IN THE DIM DISTANCES OF SICILY, ITALY AND THE UNITED STATES.

THE PRESENCE OF MEYER LANSKY AND EVENTS OF THE PST FEW WEEKS HAVE CHANGED ALL THAT.

ISRAELI NEWSPAPER REPORTS THAT MANY UNDERWORLD LEADERS MAY BE JEWISH AND MAY JUST BE THINKING OF MAKING THE PROMISED LAND THEIR PERSONAL PLAYGROUND HAVE MADE THE MAFIA THE MOST TALKED ABOUT SUBJECT SINCE THE FIGHTING STOPPED ON THE SUEZ CANAL 10 MONTHS AGO.

FOR ISRAELIS THE AMERICAN AND INTERNATIONAL UNDERWORLD IS COVERED BY THE BLANKET TERM "MAFIA."

SINCE ISRAEL DISCLOSED THAT THREE REPUTED UNDERWORLD FIGURES FROM NORTH AMERICA HAD BEEN REFUSED PERMISSION TO ENTER THE COUNTRY ITS DAILY NEWSPAPERS AND WEEKLY MAGAZINES HAVE RUN THOUSANDS OF WORDS ON THE MAFIA AND ITS ALLEGED LEADERS.

MOST OF IT HAS COME FROM THEIR CORRESPONDENTS ABROAD BECAUSE THE MAN AT THE CENTER OF THE STORM HAS PROVED TO BE JUST AS ELUSIVE HERE AS HE EVER WAS IN THE UNITED STATES.

IN ANNOUNCING THAT BENJAMIN SIEGELBAUM, 68, BERNARD ROSE, 50, AND JACOB MARCUS, 38, HAD BEEN REFUSED ENTRY AT LODI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, ISRAELI OFFICIALS SAID INTERPOL HAD TIPPED THEM THEY WERE HERE TO MEET "A PERSON IN THIS COUNTRY TO MAKE PLANS AND PROGRAMS FOR THE FUTURE."

THEY ALSO MADE IT CLEAR "THE PERSON" IS MEYER LANSKY, 69, A SILVER-HAIRED LITTLE 5-FOOT-4 MAN WHO LOOKS AND ACTS LIKE A RETIRED BANK MANAGER. SINCE HE ARRIVED HERE LAST NOVEMBER, LANSKY HAS COMMUTED BETWEEN LIVING QUARTERS IN TWO OF TEL AVIV'S PLUSHEST BEACHFRONT HOTELS, WITH HIS WIFE, THELMA, AND A PET POODLE.

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HE MAKES HIS TEMPORARY HOME IN THE DAN HOTEL, OVERLOOKING THE MEDITERRANEAN A BLOCK AWAY FROM THE U.S. EMBASSY, OR THE ACCADIA HOTEL, IN HERZLIYA, A SEASIDE SUBURB WHICH IS HOME TO THE DIPLOMATIC COLONY.

BOTH ARE OWNED BY THE SAME GROUP. IT IS HEADQUARTERED IN MIAMI, WHICH IS LANSKY'S OLD HOME TOWN.

HE TRAVELS BETWEEN THE TWO IN AN OLIVE GREEN CONVERTIBLE, AMERICAN-MADE, WITH THE DISTINCTIVE GREEN AND WHITE AND ORANGE PLATES WHICH DISTINGUISH HIRE AUTOS IN ISRAEL.

NEWS PHOTOGRAPHERS WHO HAVE STAKED OUT THE TWO HOTELS FOR DAYS ON END HAVE WOUND UP WITH ONLY BLURRED LONG RANGE PICTURES OF LANSKY ENTERING OR LEAVING HIS CAR. THE HOTEL MANAGEMENT DOES NOT ENCOURAGE THEM TO GET CLOSER.

LAST WEEK THE AFTERNOON TABLOID YEDIOTH AHARONOTH DECIDED ON A NEW GAMBIT. UNABLE TO GET TO LANSKY, ITS SOCIAL COLUMNIST, MIRA AVRECH, WAS TOLD TO TRACK DOWN MRS. LANSKY FOR A HEART-TO-HEART CHAT.

MISS AVRECH MANAGED TO RAISE MRS. LANSKY BY TELEPHONE. SHE SAID THE CONVERSATION WENT LIKE THIS:

"WHAT SORT OF PEOPLE ARE YOU? HAVE YOU BEEN TO SCHOOL? WHAT DO YOU MEAN YOU WANT TO WRITE ABOUT MEYER LANSKY? WHY ARE YOU TAKING AN INTEREST IN HIM? HE IS A SIMPLE MAN WHO LOVES PRIVACY. WHAT SORT OF A COUNTRY IS IT WHERE EDUCATED PEOPLE TAKE AN INTEREST IN FIXING UP THE WORLD?" END OF CONVERSATION.

ANOTHER NAME WHICH HAS LOOMED LARGE IN THE MAFIA SAGA IS JOE "DUCK" STASHER, WHO CAME TO ISRAEL FIVE YEARS AGO AFTER RUNNING INTO TROUBLE WITH THE U.S. GOVERNMENT OVER TAX EVASION. HE IS REPUTED TO BE AN OLD LANSKY BUDDY.

UNABLE TO TRACK LANSKY DOWN, ISRAELI TELEVISION TRIED TO INTERVIEW STASHER IN HIS SUITE AT THE SHERATON HOTEL. STASHER TOLD A REPORTER, AGAIN ON THE TELEPHONE, "YOU MUST BE JOKING. AN INTERVIEW? THIS IS THE BEST JOKE I EVER HEARD." END OF CONVERSATION.

IF THEY LEARNED LITTLE FROM THE ALLEGED UNDERWORLD FIGURES AT THEIR DOORSTEP, ISRAELIS LEARNED PLENTY ABOUT CRIME IN THE UNITED STATES.

A WEEK AGO MOST OF THEM PROBABLY HAD NEVER HEARD OF THE FULTON FISH MARKET IN LOWER MANHATTAN. NOW EVERY READER OF THE POPULAR PRESS KNOWS THERE IS SOMETHING ROTTEN IN FULTON STREET, AND IT ISN'T OLD FISH.

ACCORDING TO YEDIOTH AHARONOTH, A NOT VERY NICE JEWISH BOY CALLED "MR. J" WHO "LIVES IN A MILLION-DOLLAR BARONIAL PALACE" RUNS THE FULTON FISH MARKET AS HIS PRIVATE FIEFDOM.

"THE POLICE AT FULTON FISH MARKET ARE AT THE SERVICE OF THE BOSS, THE FISH MERCHANTS ARE HIS PARTNERS, AND THE WHOLE MILLION-DOLLAR INDUSTRY IS PART AND PARCEL OF THE SYNDICATE," ITS CORRESPONDENT REPORTED.

ANOTHER REPORT TOLD OF A PISTOL-PACKING RABBI WHO ALSO HAPPENS TO BE A LABOR UNION BOSS AND CONTROLS THE KOSHER FOOD INDUSTRY IN NEW YORK. IT SAID HE GOES TO BED EVERY NIGHT WITH THE GUN UNDER HIS PILLOW.

ONE ISRAELI NEWSPAPER PROMISES TO RUN "WHO'S WHO IN THE JEWISH UNDERWORLD" AND AN ISRAELI WIT ALREADY HAS SUGGESTED IT SHOULD "WHO'S JEWS IN THE KISHER NOSTRA."

ADV FOR AMS WED JUNE 16

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RABBI 6-11 NX

NIGHT LD

TEL AVIV (UPI)--AN ULTRA-ORTHODIX RABBI WHO IS A MEMBER OF THE THE ISRAELI PARLIAMENT AND DEPUTY MAYOR OF JERUSALEM ADMITTED FRIDAY TO FORMER BUSINESS DEALINGS WITH A FRIEND OF ALLEGED AMERICAN UNDERWORLD FIGURE MEYER LANSKY.

LANSKY ARRIVED IN ISRAEL NEARLY A YEAR AGO AND IS LIVING IN A PLUSH BEACH FRONT TEL AVIV HOTEL. RECENT REPORTS HAVE INDICATED HIS TOURIST VISA WILL NOT BE RENEWED WHEN IT EXPIRES THIS MONTH.

RABBI MENAHEM PORUSH, IN INTERVIEWS GIVEN TO ISRAELI NEWSPAPERS BEFORE HE LEFT ON A SOUTH AFRICAN TOUR THURSDAY AND PUBLISHED FRIDAY, SAID HE SEVERED HIS CONNECTIONS WITH JOSEPH "DUCK" STASHER AFTER HE DISCOVERED STASHER HAD CONNECTIONS WITH THE AMERICAN UNDERWORLD.

PORUSH, WHO REPRESENTS THE AGUDAT YISRAEL RELIGIOUS PARTY IN THE KNESSET (PARLIAMENT), SAID IN THE INTERVIEW WHICH ALSO WAS CARRIED BY ISRAEL BROADCASTING THAT HE WAS INTRODUCED TO STASHER THROUGH A GROUP OF FRANK SINATRA'S FRIENDS.

"A GROUP OF FRANK SINATRA'S FRIENDS APPROACHED ME FIVE YEARS AGO AND ASKED ME TO HELP JOE STASHER SETTLE IN ISRAEL AFTER HE HAD BEEN THROWN OUT OF THE UNITED STATES FOR TAX EVASION," THE RABBI SAID.

HE SAID ONE OF THE FRIENDS WAS JACK ENTRATTER, A LAS VEGAS HOTELMAN WHO WAS A REGULAR CONTRIBUTOR TO AGUDAT YISRAEL FUND RAISING DRIVES.

"WHEN I FOUND OUT THAT STASHER HAD CONNECTIONS WITH PEOPLE IN THE AMERICAN UNDERWORLD, I BROKE ALL LINKS WITH HIM," PORUSH SAID. STASHER LIVES IN ANOTHER TEL AVIV HOTEL ONLY YARDS DOWN THE BEACH FROM WHERE LANSKY LIVES WITH HIS WIFE AND POODLE.

ISRAELI NEWSPAPERS SAID STASHER ONCE WAS A CLOSE AIDE OF LANSKY, A REPUTED FIGURE OF THE JEWISH AMERICAN UNDERWORLD.

EVER SINCE THREE ALLEGED FIGURES IN THE AMERICAN UNDERWORLD WERE REFUSED ENTRY TO ISRAEL LAST WEEKEND NEWSPAPERS AND MAGAZINES HAVE RUN HUNDREDS OF COLUMN INCHES ON THE MAFIA AND ITS CONNECTIONS WITH THE JEWISH AMERICAN UNDERWORLD.

THE THREE -- BENJAMIN SIEGELBAUM, 68, BERNARD ROSE, 50, AND JACOB MARCUS, 38, OF CANADA -- WERE REPORTED COMING TO ISRAEL TO MEET WITH LANSKY AND STASHER.

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53 JUN 21 1971

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# Department of Justice

Mr. Tolson ☒  
Mr. Felt ☒  
Mr. Rosen ☒  
Mr. Mohr ☒  
Mr. Bishop ☒  
Mr. Miller, E.S. ☒  
Mr. Callahan ☒  
Mr. Casper ☒  
Mr. Conrad ☒  
Mr. Dalbey ☒  
Mr. Cleveland ☒  
Mr. Ponder ☒  
Mr. Bates ☒  
Mr. Tavel ☒  
Mr. Walters ☒  
Mr. Soyars ☒  
Tele. Room ☒  
Miss Holmes ☒  
Miss Gandy ☒

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 22, 1971

A federal grand jury today indicted Meyer Lar and three other persons on a charge of conspiring to illegally conceal and distribute about \$36 million in unreported income from the Flamingo Hotel Casino in Las Vegas from 1960 through 1967.

Six defendants -- not including Lansky -- were charged separately in the indictment on various counts of conspiracy to evade federal income taxes and aiding in preparing false tax returns on the same \$36 million of unreported income.

Attorney General John N. Mitchell said the five-count indictment, returned in U.S. District Court in Las Vegas, supersedes an indictment returned in Miami, Florida, last March 25 against Lansky, four other men and the Flamingo Company, a Nevada corporation.

Named in today's indictment, in addition to Lansky, were:

Samuel Cohen, 64, of Miami Beach, Florida

Morris Lansburgh, 54, of Miami Beach;

Jerry W. Gordon, 44, of Las Vegas;

Harry Goldberg, 65, of Miami and Las Vegas;

57 NOV 10 1971

OVER

Steve Delmont, 37, of Las Vegas, and,  
Samuel Ziegman, 75, of Omaha, Nebraska.

The first count of the indictment charged Lansky, Lansburgh, Cohen and Gordon with conspiring to conceal and distribute through the facilities of interstate and foreign commerce -- between Florida, New York, Switzerland and elsewhere -- unreported and illegal proceeds from a gambling activity that was in violation of Nevada laws.

These funds, the indictment said, amounted to about \$4.5 million annually for the eight years from 1960 through 1967.

The second count of the indictment charged Lansburgh, Cohen, Gordon, Ziegman, Delmont and Goldberg with conspiring to evade income taxes on unreported Flamingo Casino income of about \$4.5 million per year from 1960 through 1967.

The remaining counts charged Lansburgh, Cohen and Gordon with aiding and assisting in preparation of false income tax returns as follows:

count three, fiscal year ending March 31, 1966,  
\$4,579,500 not reported;

count four, fiscal year ending March 31, 1967,  
\$4,860,750 not reported;

count five, the first four months of the fiscal year ending March 31, 1968, \$1,077,450 not reported.

OVER

Maximum penalty upon conviction on each count of conspiracy is five years in prison and a \$10,000 fine and on each count of fraudulent tax return preparation, three years in prison and a \$10,000 fine.

INSIDE LABOR

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Mr. Ficker \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Bates \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Bishop \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Cleveland \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Conrad \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Dalbey \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Jenkins \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Marshall \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Miller, E.S. \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Ponder \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Soyars \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Walters \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Kinley \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Armstrong \_\_\_\_\_  
Ms. Herwig \_\_\_\_\_  
Mrs. Neenan \_\_\_\_\_

Tax Burden Solution:

Absentee Lansky Still Operating in U.S.,  
Builds Gambling Casino Network Across the Mediterranean

By Victor Riesel

WASHINGTON---Just the other day American intelligence officers were informed by their Israeli counterparts that special agents of the Jerusalem interior ministry had visited Meyer Lansky in a Tel Aviv suburb and had bluntly told the computer-minded brain of globally organized crime he had a month to mop up his personal affairs, pack up and get out.

If this Mafia-linked brain trust did not go voluntarily, the Israeli special police advised him, they'd drive him to the Lod airport and put him on the first plane out.

American authorities report that the small 71-year-old Lansky, czar of a worldwide network of gambling casinos, immediately began "negotiating" with Greek and Turkish officials for permanent residence in one of those countries.

Israeli agents moved shortly after that nation's five-judge supreme court, in a one-sentence decision, set precedent by denying the associate of a long line of American underworld dons, such as the late Joe Adonis (Mr. Doto), the sacred privilege of citizenship under the "law of return" for those of the Jewish faith.

For Israel there is historic significance in this decision. The high court ruled against Lansky though dictum on evidence which, though inadmissible under the law, nonetheless showed the gambling king to be the wraith-like financial wizard of the multi-billion-dollar organized crime syndicates in America. Thus the Israeli high court set precedent, forever closing that country as a haven for underworld characters of any faith.

American authorities won't pursue Lansky. Their information is that he wants to settle in the "Mediterranean world." It's much like southern Florida--lots of sun, lots of resorts. Thus lots of opportunities for a new network of gambling casinos along the entire littoral of the virtually enclosed sea.

--MORE--

This little thug, a wizard not only of odds but of portraying himself as a whimsical Damon Runyon, oppressed aging man, still runs a financial empire worth some \$300 million to \$500 million.

Much of this has been traced by what insiders know as the anti-organized crime "Lansky task force--Financier." This is the 18th--and final--coordinated Justice Dept. strike force. Its secretive files reportedly show Lansky's investments running deep into "major U.S. corporations." All through "front investors."

This "front" technique also covers his control of at least 12 gambling casinos in Yugoslavia, probably three in Greece and two in Turkey.

Lansky, who is under four indictments in New York and Miami and could go to prison for the rest of his life if he returns, stands trial and is convicted, has never ceased operating casinos elsewhere--such as in the Caribbean. And he now wants to spread his operations in the Middle East and North Africa. Which is why he suddenly arrived in Israel in July 1970.

Simultaneously, American and Israeli authorities zeroed in on him. He worried them. Rarely has any brain been so skilled. Some years ago, one of his virtually unknown lieutenants, Dino Cellini, slipped into London, organized a school for croupiers, worked his way into the now-defunct Colony Sporting Club on Berkeley Square, and soon became, under Lansky's guidance, its manager and director until they were all barred from England.

All the time, Lansky flew in and out of Britain--unnoticed. He and Cellini are now under joint indictment for income tax evasion springing out of a voucher scheme which netted them scores of thousands of dollars in cash from wealthy junketeers they flew into London who lost their money, signed "markers" and paid off to Lansky in the U.S.

Cellini, who comes from the Steubenville, Ohio, area, when last heard from was living in Rome (Italy) selling slot machines.

--MORE--

Lansky and company are under as much surveillance as possible. Their camouflaged gambling empire still works smoothly in the U.S. where an absorption in legalized casino gambling is developing as a way out of state and municipal tax crunches.

For example, both the New York and New Jersey state legislatures are considering authorizing gambling casinos in big hotels. New Jersey's State Gambling Study Commission has been holding regular monthly hearings. There are many in favor--and there are those such as the crusading Herbert Stern, U.S. attorney for the state, who speak out against it. There also is opposition in New York to this method of easing the tax burden brought on by huge welfare and educational costs.

Much of the opposition among the pros such as Stern and Dan Hollman, former head of the unique Federal-state-municipal anti-crime strike force in the Southern District of New York, is based on the belief that Lansky's long arms reach all over the U.S. and might infiltrate even the most diligent of security forces.

So Lansky never is out of sight of some mighty big brothers.

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# Lansky Seized By Miami FBI

MIAMI (UPI)—Meyer Lansky, reputed financial wizard of the underworld's gambling empire, was arrested by federal agents today after a two-day aerial odyssey looking for sanctuary from American justice.

Lansky, 70, was escorted off a Braniff jetliner which landed here by Kenneth Whittaker, in charge of the Miami FBI office, and several other agents.

He left Israel late Sunday, five days before a deportation deadline.

Lansky's arrest ended a 12,700-mile flight in search of asylum during which Peru joined Israel, Switzerland, Argentina and Paraguay in rejecting him.

After being cleared by Customs and Immigration officials, Lansky was questioned for nearly two hours at the FBI building in Miami and was booked on charges of income tax evasion and illegal gambling.

He was led to a car and transported to the Federal Building where he was placed in a detention cell. Arraignment was set for later today before a U.S. magistrate.

Bond was expected to be set at \$200,000.

Wearing a rumpled blue sport coat with a white shirt open at the collar, the short, gray-haired Lansky smiled and chatted with the federal agents as he walked toward the customs and immigration offices.

Lansky's wife, Thelma, is still in Tel Aviv. He was denied permission to settle in Israel because, a court ruled, he is a threat to public safety.

Lansky reportedly offered \$1 million to any country that would take him in.

Lansky was indicted in Miami in March 1971, when he failed to answer a grand jury subpoena to testify. Later, he was indicted by grand juries



MEYER LANSKY

in Miami, New York and Las Vegas for income tax evasion and interstate transportation in aid of racketeering.

Dougald McMillan, chief of the Justice Department's strike force in Miami, said Lansky faced a maximum penalty of five years in prison and a \$10,000 fine on the interstate transportation charge and one to five years on the tax evasion charges.

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Mr. Kinley \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Armstrong \_\_\_\_\_  
Ms. Herwig \_\_\_\_\_  
Mrs. Neenan \_\_\_\_\_

The Washington Post \_\_\_\_\_  
Times Herald \_\_\_\_\_  
The Washington Daily News \_\_\_\_\_  
The Evening Star (Washington) A3  
The Sunday Star (Washington) \_\_\_\_\_  
Daily News (New York) \_\_\_\_\_  
Sunday News (New York) \_\_\_\_\_  
New York Post \_\_\_\_\_  
The New York Times \_\_\_\_\_  
The Daily World \_\_\_\_\_  
The New Leader \_\_\_\_\_  
The Wall Street Journal \_\_\_\_\_  
The National Observer \_\_\_\_\_  
People's World \_\_\_\_\_

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 Tele. Room ☒  
 Mr. Kinley ☒  
 Mr. Armstrong ☒

# Lansky Is Arrested on Landing in Miami

Special to The New York Times

MIAMI, Nov. 7 — Meyer Lansky, reputed underworld financial figure, was arrested at Miami International Airport today by agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The arrest marked the end of a flight that began on Sunday in Israel and that touched at seven countries before arriving in Florida.

Lansky was taken into custody as he stepped off a Braniff International jetliner. Nine hours later he was free after posting bail of \$250,000.

The 70-year-old former resident of Miami faces at least four Federal indictments, each

of which could mean long terms in jail.

"Lansky appears to be tired of running," one lawyer observed here today.

During a brief bond hearing before United States Magistrate Michael J. Osman, Lansky, dressed as he was when he stepped from the plane that brought him here from South America at 6:22 A.M., swallowed several medicine pills. His deeply-lined face showed signs of nervousness.

Setting the bond at about half of what the Government had asked, the magistrate set a series of conditions for Lansky's release.

He is to surrender his passport, now in possession of his lawyer in Tel Aviv, to the American Embassy in Israel within 72 hours. He must report each Monday and Friday to Federal authorities here, and his traveling is restricted to Dade and Broward Counties.

Lansky has been regarded for years as one of the brains of organized crime in the United States and he has had many encounters with the law.

He was said to be controlling gambling operations in Cuba during the regime of President Fulgencio Batista.

He lived in Florida in the early nineteen-sixties and left the United States in July, 1970, for Israel, where he tried to obtain citizenship under the Israeli "law of return."

But after a two-and-a-half-year legal battle, his application was finally rejected last month and he was ordered to leave Israel voluntarily this week, or be expelled.

Late Sunday he flew from Tel Aviv to Zurich, Switzerland. He was not permitted to remain there, however, and he immediately flew on to South America, reportedly offering \$1-million to any country that would grant him asylum.

But Brazil, Argentina, Paraguay, Bolivia, Peru and Panama refused to admit the man who was traveling with an Israeli international "safe conduct" document.

Late last night, when Mr. Lansky's plane, a Braniff Flight 974, was still flying over South America and hours from its estimated time of arrival in Miami, the Federal authorities here, apparently advised ahead of time that his request for asylum would be denied, started preparations to take him into custody upon arrival.

Kenneth W. Whittaker, special agent in charge of the Miami office of the F.B.I., went to the airport to arrest Mr. Lansky.

## Based on 1971 Warrant

Mr. Whittaker said that the arrest was based on a bench warrant issued by a Federal judge in Miami on March 14, 1971, charging Lansky with failure to answer a summons to appear before the Federal grand jury in Miami.

At the bond hearing today, another charge was added: An order of arrest issued by a Federal judge here charged Lansky with tax evasion. He also faces indictments in New York and Las Vegas on similar charges.

Although Lansky faces several indictments, has no family in the United States and no employment, and his financial resources are unknown, it took him one hour after the hearing to raise the \$250,000 bond.

The bond was posted by the Public Service Mutual Fund of New York, and Lansky has to pay a premium of 15 per cent of the total amount. He was also ordered today to post two \$200,000 personal recognition bonds, for which only a signature is required.

There were speculations here today that Lansky left Israel because he had been led to believe that he would be granted asylum in a small South American country.

Or, as one of his legal advisers jokingly said, "Lansky came home to vote in the Presidential election because they wouldn't send him his absentee ballot."

The Washington Post Times Herald \_\_\_\_\_  
 The Evening Star (Washington) \_\_\_\_\_  
 The Sunday Star (Washington) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Daily News (New York) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Sunday News (New York) \_\_\_\_\_  
 New York Post \_\_\_\_\_  
 The New York Times 49  
 The Daily World \_\_\_\_\_  
 The New Leader \_\_\_\_\_  
 The Wall Street Journal \_\_\_\_\_  
 The National Observer \_\_\_\_\_  
 People's World \_\_\_\_\_

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United Press International

Meyer Lansky being taken from Miami International Airport yesterday morning by F.B.I. agents, Ralph Hill, left, and Kenneth Whittaker, after a futile quest for asylum.

Around the Nation C-9

# Mafia Figure Lansky Is Sentenced to Year in Prison

MIAMI—Meyer Lansky, whose career as the reputed wizard of underworld finances spans five decades, was sentenced to a year and a day in prison for refusal to appear before a federal grand jury.

A federal prosecutor said he believed it was Lansky's first prison sentence.

The 70-year-old Lansky, a former associate of such mob figures as Charles (Lucky) Luciano and Benjamin (Bugsy) Siegel, had nothing to say about the sentence. He assured U.S. District Judge James L. King he would not skip town if allowed to remain free on \$250,000 bond while the sentence is appealed.

Lansky, a wizened little man with graying hair underwent open heart surgery in March and still faces trial here July 9 on an income tax evasion charge, and trial Sept. 10 in Las Vegas on a charge of conspiring to "skim" some \$36 million from profits of the Flamingo Hotel gambling casino.

## Women Police

SAN FRANCISCO—Four women police officers in an experimental program here have been removed from patrol duties because they weren't strong enough to arrest resisting male suspects.

The women officers agreed they lacked the physical stature for patrol work, one adding that some of the male officers she patrolled with lacked confidence in her abilities in heated situations.

In view of the results of the experiment, department officials said they will discontinue regular patrol assignments for women officers altogether.

"These women are very sharp, they have a lot of guts and they stuck it out,

but they're just not Amazons," said Sgt. Edward Epting, a training officer.

## Yablonski Case

ERIE, Pa.—State prosecutors methodically traced \$20,000 yesterday from the United Mine Workers' Washington headquarters into the hands of Albert E. Pass who is on trial for the murder of Joseph A. Yablonski, a UMW insurgent, his wife and daughter.

Six UMW field organizers, including confessed Yablonski murder plotter William J. Prater, testified how money from the international was distributed by checks to retired miners who then gave it back to union organizers.

Yablonski, his wife and daughter were murdered at their Clarksville, Pa. home Dec. 31, 1969, three weeks

after he failed to oust then UMW president W.A. (Tony) Boyle in a union election. Special prosecutor Richard A. Sprague charged that Pass, one of seven defendants in the case, secured \$20,000 from UMW headquarters by making a personal appeal to Boyle. Boyle has denied all knowledge of the case.

From staff reports and news dispatches

Mr. Felt ☒  
Mr. Baker ☒  
Mr. Callahan ☒  
Mr. Cleveland ☒  
Mr. Conrad ☒  
Mr. Gebhardt ☒  
Mr. Jenkins ☒  
Mr. Marshall ☒  
Mr. Miller, E.S. ☒  
Mr. Soyars ☒  
Mr. Thompson ☒  
Mr. Walters ☒  
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Mr. Baise ☒  
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Mr. Bowers ☒  
Mr. Herington ☒  
Mr. Conmy ☒  
Mr. Mintz ☒  
Mr. Eardley ☒  
Mrs. Hogan ☒

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The Evening Star (Washington) \_\_\_\_\_

The Sunday Star (Washington) \_\_\_\_\_

Daily News (New York) \_\_\_\_\_

Sunday News (New York) \_\_\_\_\_

New York Post \_\_\_\_\_

The New York Times \_\_\_\_\_

The Daily World \_\_\_\_\_

The New Leader \_\_\_\_\_

The Wall Street Journal \_\_\_\_\_

The National Observer \_\_\_\_\_

People's World \_\_\_\_\_

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